5
Sunny
TAIYO MATSUMOTO

5

# Sunn

TAIYO MATSUMOTO

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# Sunny

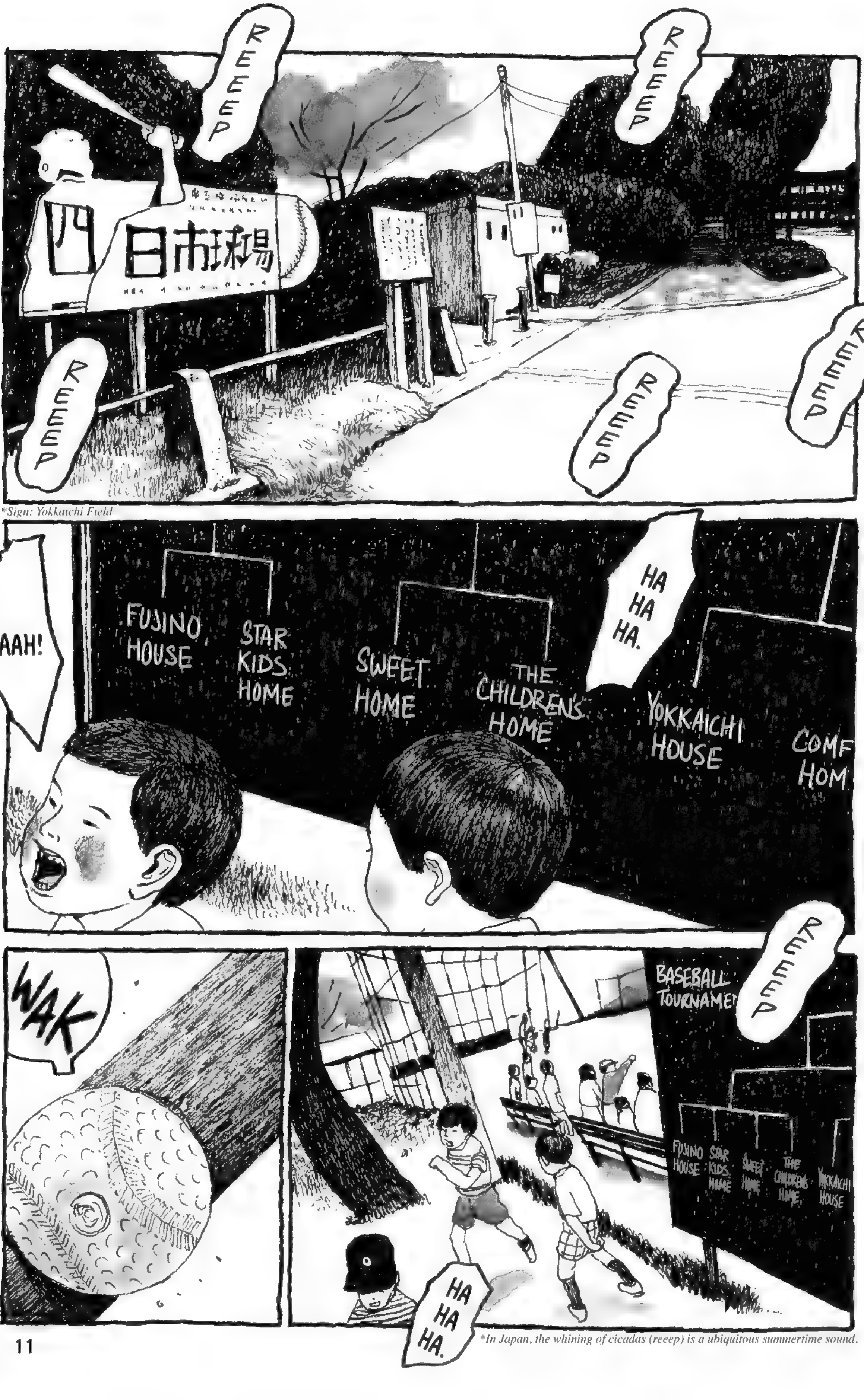
5

# CHAPTER 25

"Gonna
be a sot
hummer!"

"My throb
hurts!"

1975
CROSS




*Sign: Yokkaichi Field

*In Japan, the whining of cicadas (reeep) is a ubiquitous summertime sound.

K-I-K-O!
GO!
GO!
GO!
PDMP
PDMP
PDMP
AW-RIGHT!
THAT'S IT, KIKO! NOW RUN!!
PANT.
PANT.
PANT.
REEEP
AWWW~
YER OUT!
REEEP
FUJINO HOUSE
STAR KIDS HOME
SQK
REEEP

HERE IT COMES!
UCI
NCAA CHAMP
1975 1976
HAI-YA!
CENTER!
KER-RACK

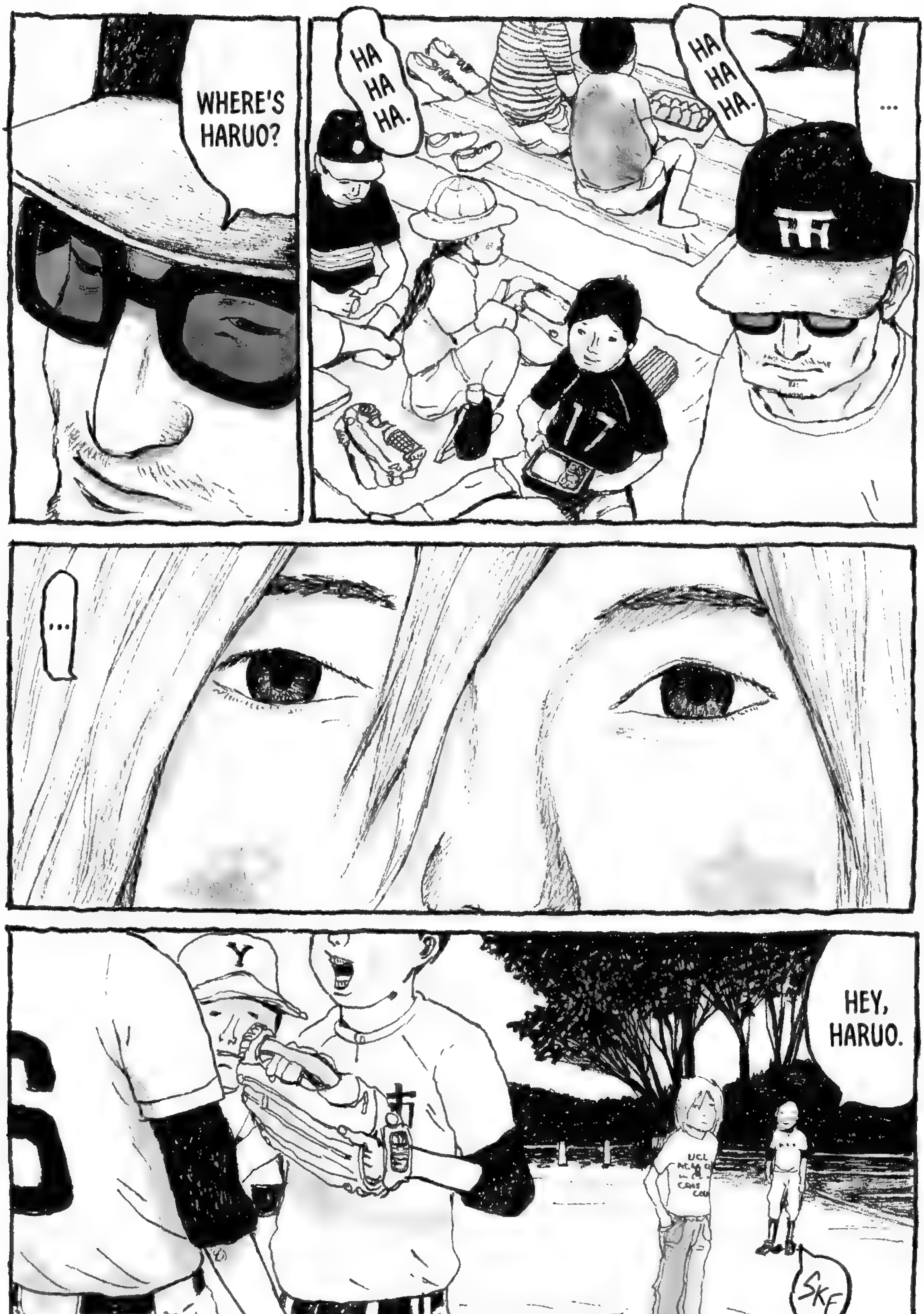
...
REEEEP
BOMP
REEEEP
MAKE SURE YOU GOT YOUR MITT ON RIGHT!
WAIT 'TIL LUNCH-TIME!
TARO!
RAAAAAH
Oh well.
ARF
ARF
HEY! DOES HE HAVE FRIED CHICKEN ONES?
AWW, TARO'S EATING HIS RICE BALLS!
JUST PICK UP THE BALL!
C'MON, QUIT EATIN'!
MUNCH
MUNCH

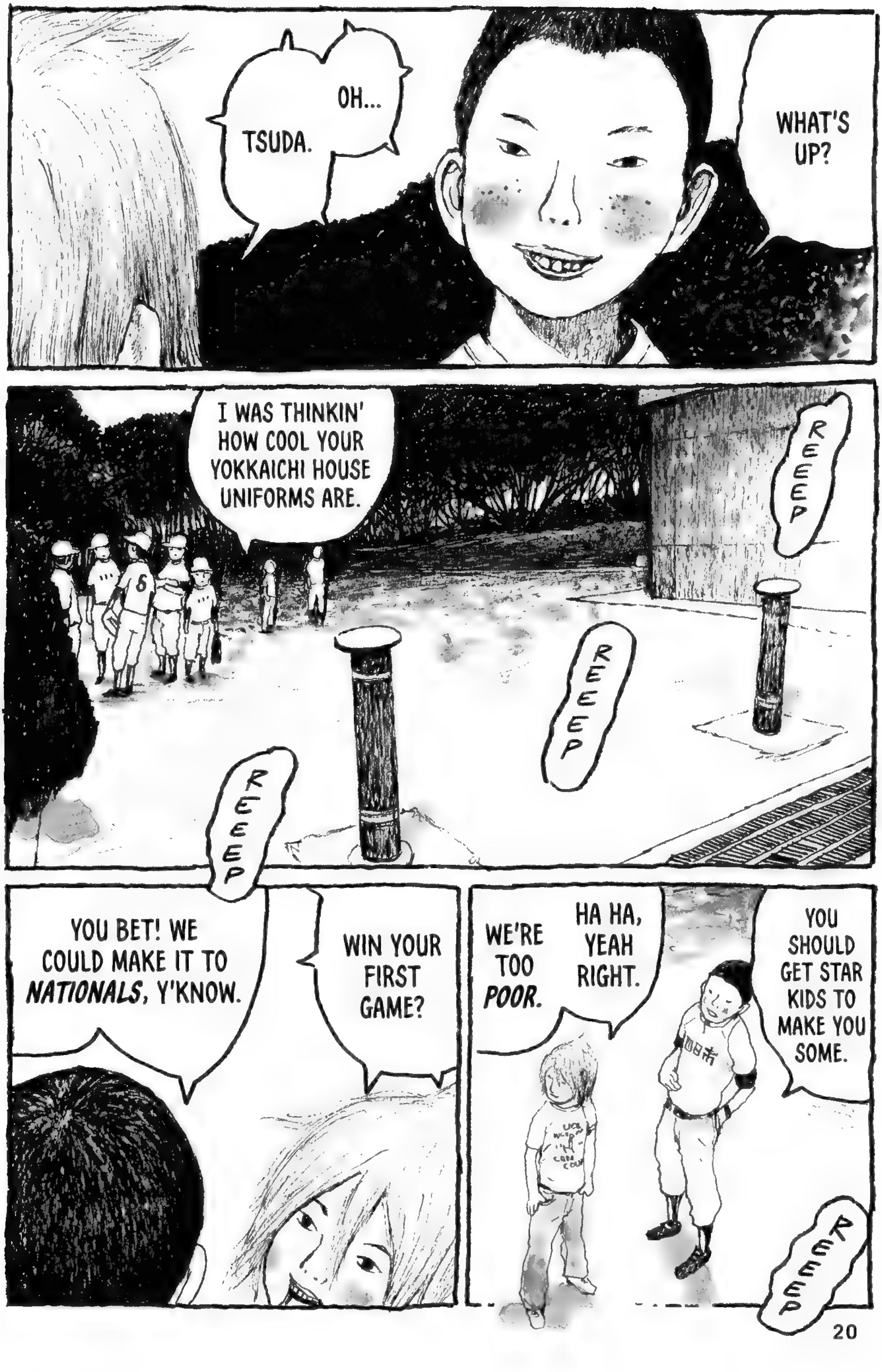
YOKKAICHI'S GONNA WIN AGAIN THIS YEAR.
HMPH ...
HA HA HA.
YAAAH!
STAR KIDS IS GONNA GET ELIMINATED IN THE FIRST ROUND, JUST LIKE LAST YEAR.
MIGHT AS WELL BE.
HARUO, YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. THE GAME AIN'T EVEN OVER YET.
Swing, swing, Me-gu-mu.
HUH?
WELL, Y'KNOW, IT AIN'T ABOUT WHO WINS THE GAME.
STRIKE!
YAH!
WHIFF
PAFF
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES USING GIRLS...

ONCE A YEAR ALL THE LOCAL FOSTER HOMES GET TOGETHER LIKE THIS...
REEEEP
...HAVE A GOOD TIME, PLAY A LITTLE BASEBALL, EAT LUNCH TOGETHER.
REEEEP
Go! Go!
FUJI-NO!
REEEEP
WHO WINS AND WHO LOSES AIN'T WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
TSK.
WHAP
Strike!
Batter out!
SKFF
Change-over!

WE'RE LIKE THE LOSERS OF THE LOSERS.
SQK
Uhhh
OKAY, FOLKS! REMEMBER, DE-FENSE!
...
GNAW
ALL THESE FOSTER HOMES, AND WE GOTTA COME IN LAST...
DANG, LOOK AT YOKKAICHI HOUSE...
THEY'RE SO GOOD.
Let's go!
Hang tough!
?
HWOOOO OO

*Small rice balls wrapped in fried tofu skin


WHERE'S HARUO?
HA HA HA.
HA HA HA.
...
...
HEY, HARUO.
SKF

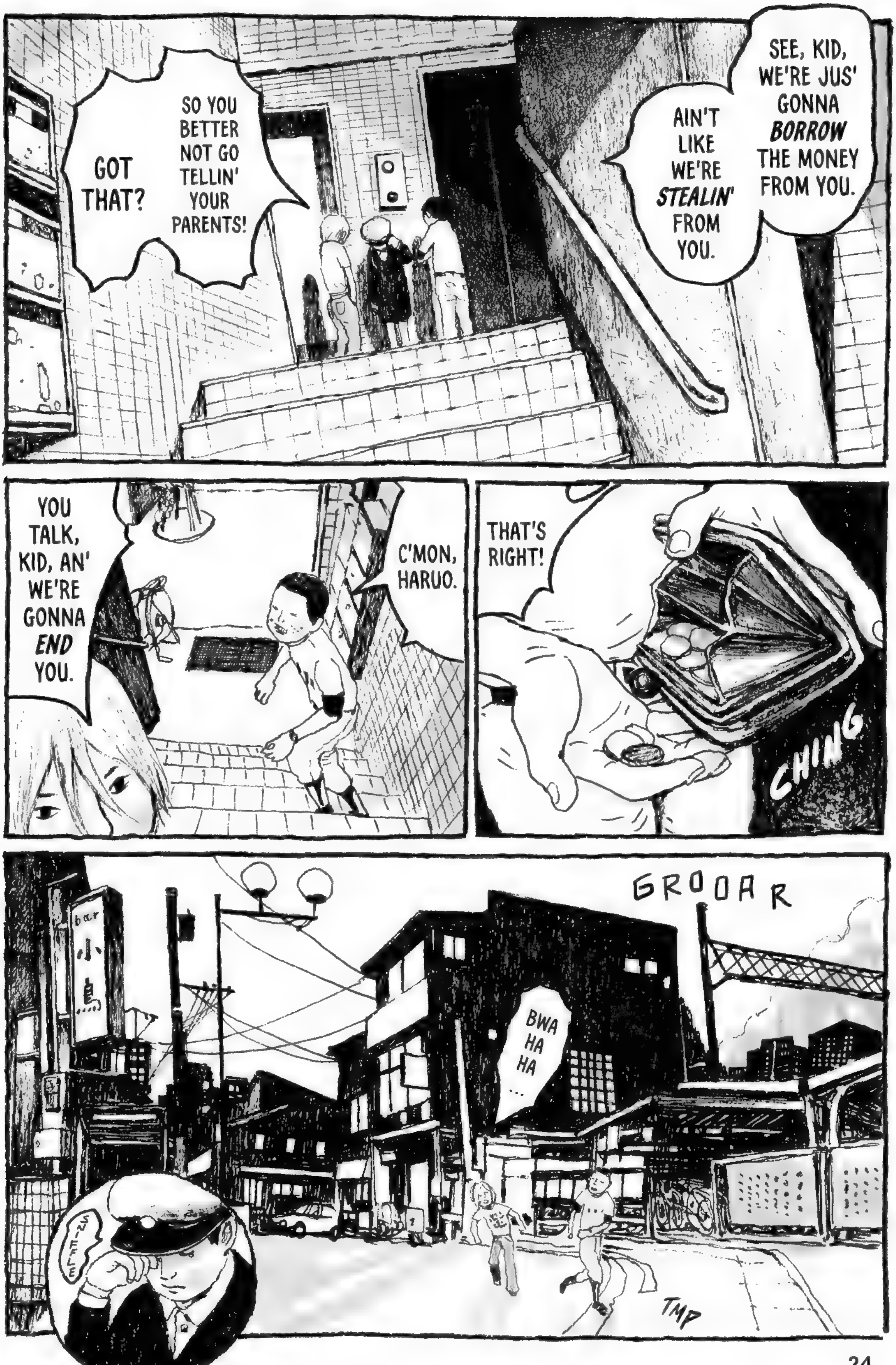


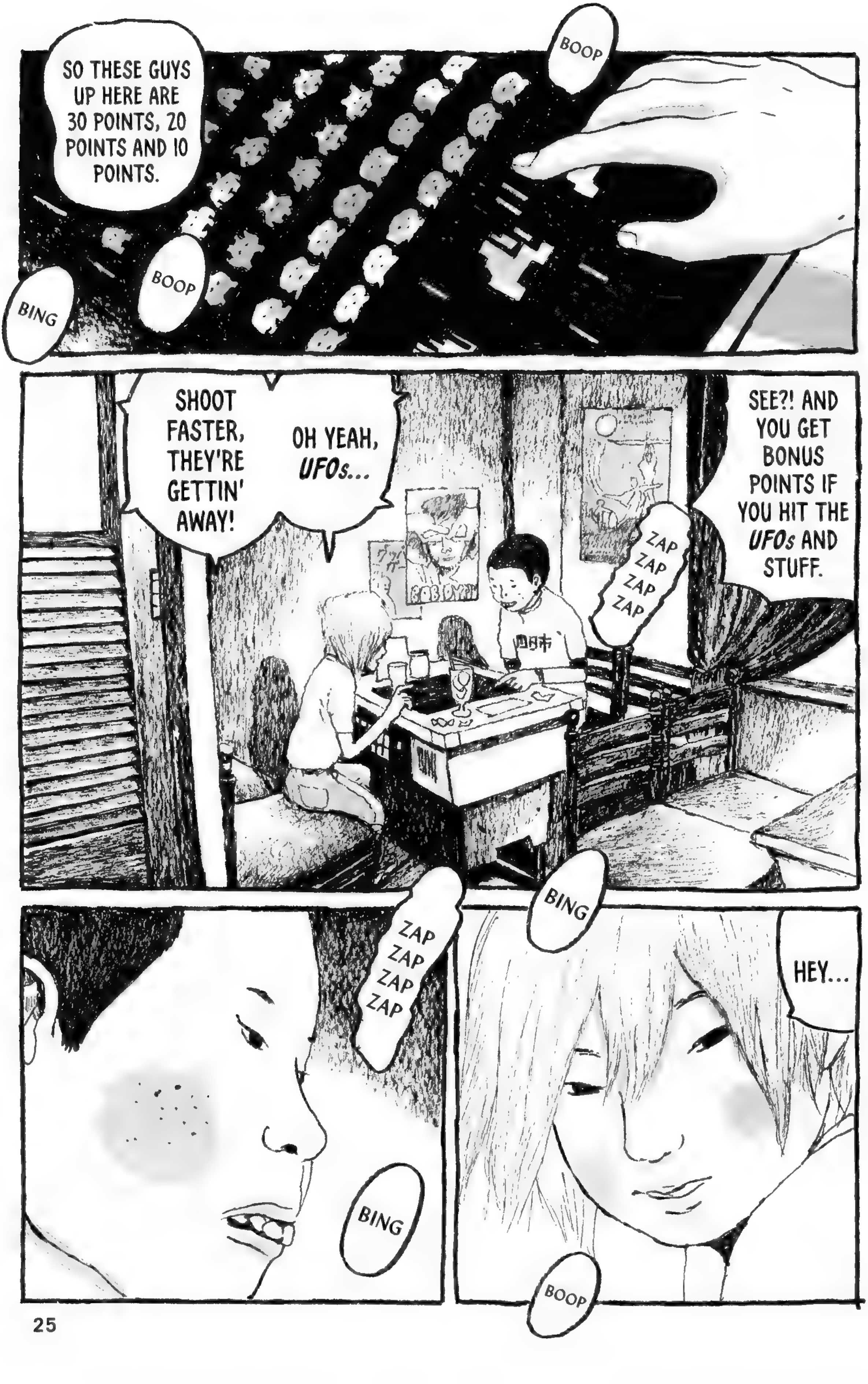
WHAT'S UP?
OH...
TSUDA.
I WAS THINKIN' HOW COOL YOUR YOKKAICHI HOUSE UNIFORMS ARE.
REEEP
REEEP
REEEP
YOU SHOULD GET STAR KIDS TO MAKE YOU SOME.
REEEP
HA HA, YEAH RIGHT.
WE'RE TOO *POOR*.
WIN YOUR FIRST GAME?
YOU BET! WE COULD MAKE IT TO *NATIONALS*, Y'KNOW.

REEEP
YOKKAICHI HOUSE IS SO GOOD...
I'M JUST A *BENCH-WARMER.*
NOT ME THOUGH.
nyah!
REEEP
BLEH, WHO CARES!
YEAH, BUT I GOTTA CHEER FOR THE FUJINO KIDS, AND YOKKAICHI HOUSE IS PLAYIN' THIS AFTER-NOON...
UCI
TOWN ?!
HEY, LET'S DITCH AND GO INTO TOWN.
REEEP
ALL RIGHT!
IT'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS WE GET BACK BEFORE DARK.
四日市球場
SKF
REEEP
REEEP

GROOAR
HA HA
HA
HA
HA

LOLLIPOPS AIN'T WORTH CRAP IN THE BIG CITY...
PHOO.
IS THAT *REALLY* A *REAL* CIGARETTE?
BETTER BELIEVE IT.
1975
CROSS
HERE.
HUH?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HA HA HA...
FORGET ABOUT IT.
TRY AGAIN IN A MILLION YEARS! HA HA HA.
GACK.
GACK.
GACK.
GACK.
GROOOAR


SEE, KID, WE'RE JUS' GONNA BORROW THE MONEY FROM YOU.
AIN'T LIKE WE'RE STEALIN' FROM YOU.
SO YOU BETTER NOT GO TELLIN' YOUR PARENTS!
GOT THAT?
THAT'S RIGHT!
CHING
C'MON, HARUO.
YOU TALK, KID, AN' WE'RE GONNA END YOU.
GROOAR
bar 小鳥
BWA HA HA ...
SNIFFLE
TMP


SO THESE GUYS UP HERE ARE 30 POINTS, 20 POINTS AND 10 POINTS.
BOOP
BOOP
BING
SHOOT FASTER, THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!
OH YEAH, *UFOs*...
SEE?! AND YOU GET BONUS POINTS IF YOU HIT THE *UFOs* AND STUFF.
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP
BING
HEY...
BING
BOOP

WEIRD... WHERE'S MY *NIVEA?*
WHAT NIVEA?
UM...
WELL ...
I HAD SOME NIVEA IN MY POCKET...
BING
BING
BOOP
WHAT TIME IS IT?
SUN GO DOWN ALREADY ?
BOOP
...
BOOP
HEY!
LOOK, HARUO! ANOTHER UFO!!
BOOP
BEE BEE BEEP
OH YEAH!
HURRY, SHOOT IT! FASTER!
HEY, HARUO...
HUH?
STAY OVER AT YOKKAICHI HOUSE TONIGHT, OKAY?
SURE!

GROOOAR
AWESOME! WHAT A COOL CITY!
中日スポーツ
ROCKY
ロッキー
YKK
HONK HONK
HONK
THE CITY SUCKS WHEN YOU GET USED TO IT.
WHAT-EVER.
I LOVE IT!
THAT ROARING SOUND, AND THE WAY IT SMELLS LIKE FOOD AND GAS ALL MIXED TOGETHER...

GONNA DROP OUTTA JUNIOR HIGH, GO TO OSAKA.
JOIN A GANG, RUN SOME *SCAMS!*
...
WANNA GO TOGETHER?
...
I'M GOIN' BACK TO TOKYO ...
TOKYO ?
MY MOM'S IN TOKYO...
THOUGHT I PUT IT IN HERE ...
WEIRD... MAYBE I DROPPED IT.
...

Sign: Sunhouse Pharmacy

KLANG
TSUDA, WHERE'D YOU GET IT?!
KLANG
KLANG
HEY, HARUO, WANNA KNOW A SECRET?
KLANG
Y'KNOW ...
KLANG
I *EXTERMINATED* MY PARENTS.
KLANG
KLANG
I WAS STILL A THIRD GRADER LAST TIME THEY CAME TO VISIT...
HAVEN'T SEEN 'EM FOR TWO YEARS.
IF THEY EVER COME BACK, I WON'T GO SEE 'EM.
GRO OAR
AND IF I DO MEET 'EM, WE'LL BE JUS' LIKE STRANGERS.

KLANG
LOOK AT YOU— SNIFFIN' AT THAT NIVEA, SO AFRAID YOU'LL FORGET ABOUT YOUR MOM.
KLANG
NCAA
KLANG
Y' KNOW ?
IT'S TOUGH IF YOU THINK YOUR PARENTS ARE STILL AROUND ...
KLANG
KLANG
KLAK KLAK KLAK
31
KLANG
KLANG
SO I'M TELLIN' YOU, JUS' EXTERMINATE 'EM FROM YOUR BRAIN.
KLANG
KLAK KLAK KLAK
31
ERASE 'EM.
KLANG

YOU JUS' GOTTA THINK ABOUT GOOD STUFF OR IT'LL GET YOU DOWN...
KLANG
KLAK KLAK KLAK
KLANG
KLANG
YOU AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE HOW THAT BAD STUFF JUS' DISAPPEARS.
KLANG

?
GEH!
KLANG
WELL LOOK WHO WE FOUND...♡
OH NO, IT'S KINPEI!!
WHO IS THAT?
IT'S KINPEI. HE'S THE *WORST*.
OH CRUD! CRUD CRUD CRUD!
IF IT AIN'T TSUDA. WE WERE *WORRIED* 'BOUT YOU.
WHERE WERE YA, BUDDY?
SKNCH

GROOAR
WELL, MY PAL YANO FROM STAR KIDS SAID HE WANTED TO SEE THE CITY, SO...
I WAS GONNA, LIKE, SHOW 'IM AROUND UNTIL EVENING...
BUT WE GOT LOST, AN' LIKE... UM... Y'KNOW...
UH-HUH.
SKNCH
WHOA!
SHADDUP!!
BWAK
GOT A CALL AT WORK THAT YOU WERE DITCHING BASEBALL, BRAT!
OWWW! I GOT BENCHED... URF!

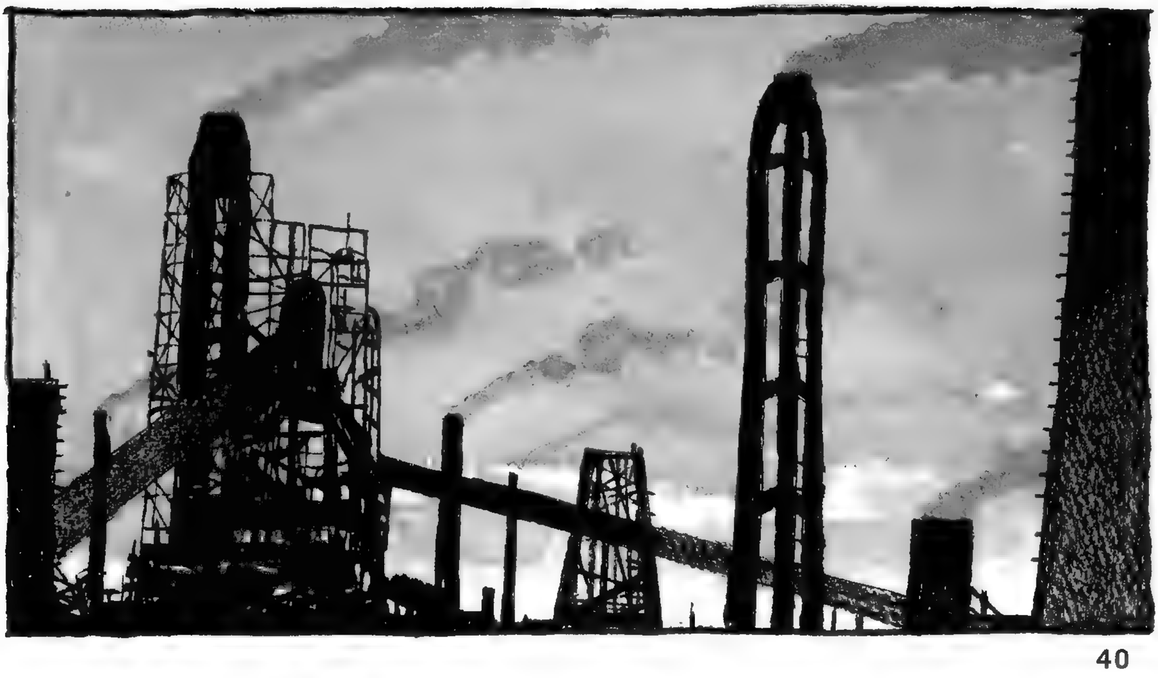
SORRYYY!
WHEN YA GET BENCHED, YER SUPPOSED TO SIT THERE AND KEEP THE BENCH *WARM*, RIGHT?!
GROOR
ACT YER AGE, GOT IT?!
SORRY! SORRY!
MAYBE IN A MILLION YEARS, YA LITTLE TURD!
AND WHO SAID YA COULD SMOKE?!
SORRYYY!

BONK
YOU IDIOT!
YOU MADE THE BUS WAIT TWO HOURS!
YEAH, I SAID I WAS SORRY.
EVERYONE HAD TO GO RUN ALL OVER LOOKING FOR YOU!!
WELL *EXCUUUZE* ME.
BUT I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO COME PICK ME UP...
I WAS GONNA STAY AT YOKKAICHI HOUSE TONIGHT...
IDIOT!!

I WAS JUST GOING TO LEAVE YOU...
...BUT THE HOUSEMASTER *FELT SORRY* FOR YOU!
HAD TO WALK OUT ON DINNER AND DRIVE FOR TWO HOURS 'CAUSE OF YOU...
AUNTIE YOSHINO'S INARI WERE SO GOOD...
YEAH ...
YOSHINO SURE CAN COOK.
ANYWAY, FORGET ABOUT DINNER!!
I'M TRYIN' TO LECTURE YOU ABOUT BEING IRRESPON-SIBLE!!
I GOT IT, OKAY, SO QUIT SHOUTIN' AT ME!

HARUO, LIVING WITH OTHERS MEANS YOU CAN'T JUST DO WHATEVER YOU WANT ALL THE TIME!
VROOOOM
CAN'T JUST EAT WHENEVER YOU FEEL HUNGRY OR SLEEP WHENEVER YOU FEEL TIRED...
YOU PROB'LY DIDN'T KNOW, BUT...
YOK-KAICHI'S GOT MORE RULES THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
IT'S *TOUGH* THERE—NOT LIKE STAR KIDS.
YOU WOULDN'T LAST HALF A DAY IN THAT PLACE...
!
...
STAY OVER AT YOKKAICHI HOUSE TONIGHT.
OKAY?
HMPH...
VROOOOOM

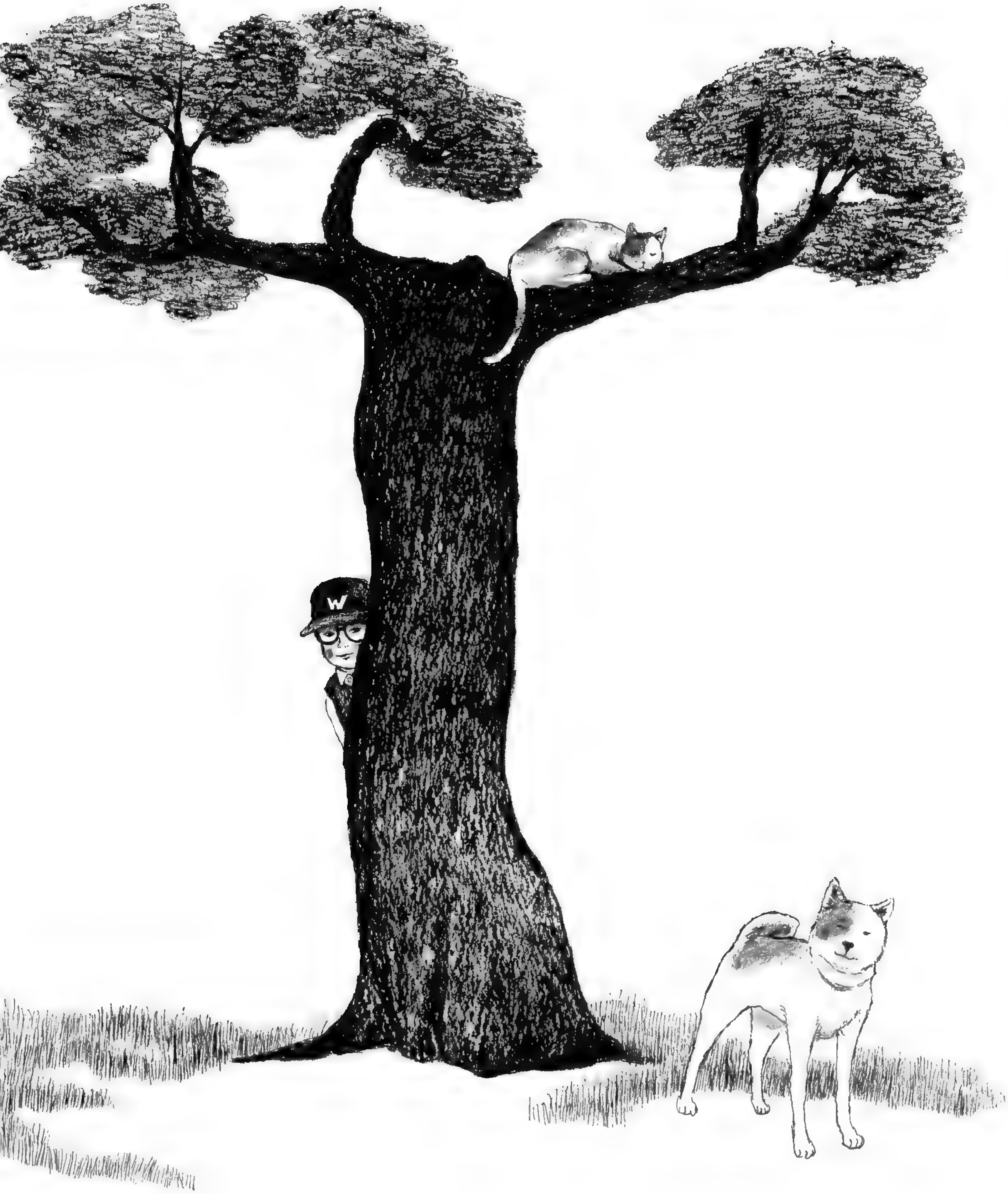
FZZ..
KLIK
PHOO
GRROOO OAR
ササキ電機

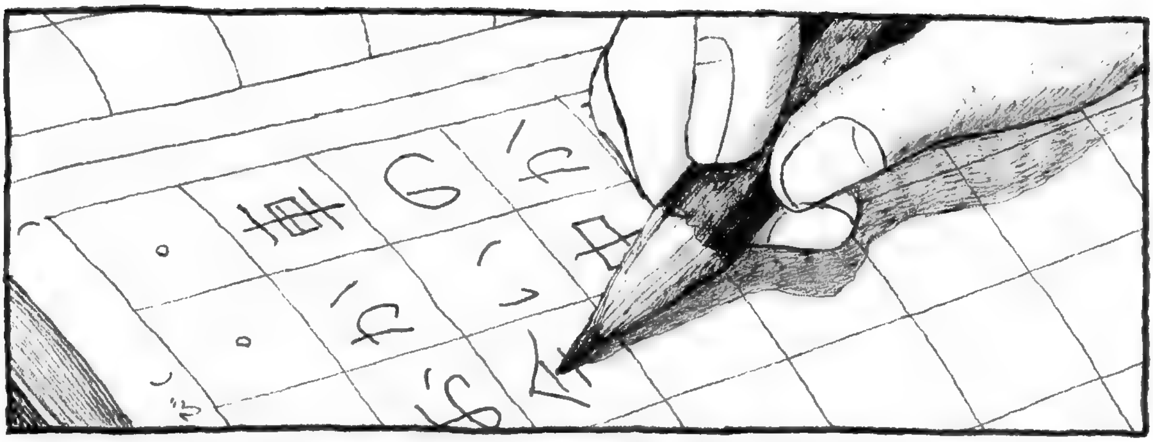


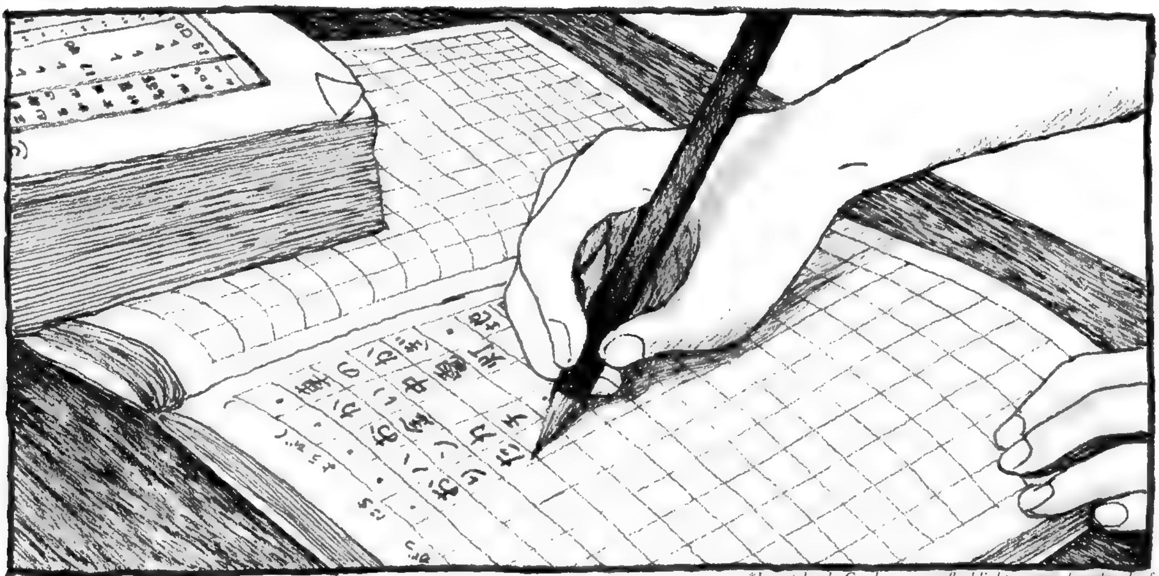
# CHAPTER 26

"Jus' like *3,000 Leagues in Search of Mother.*"

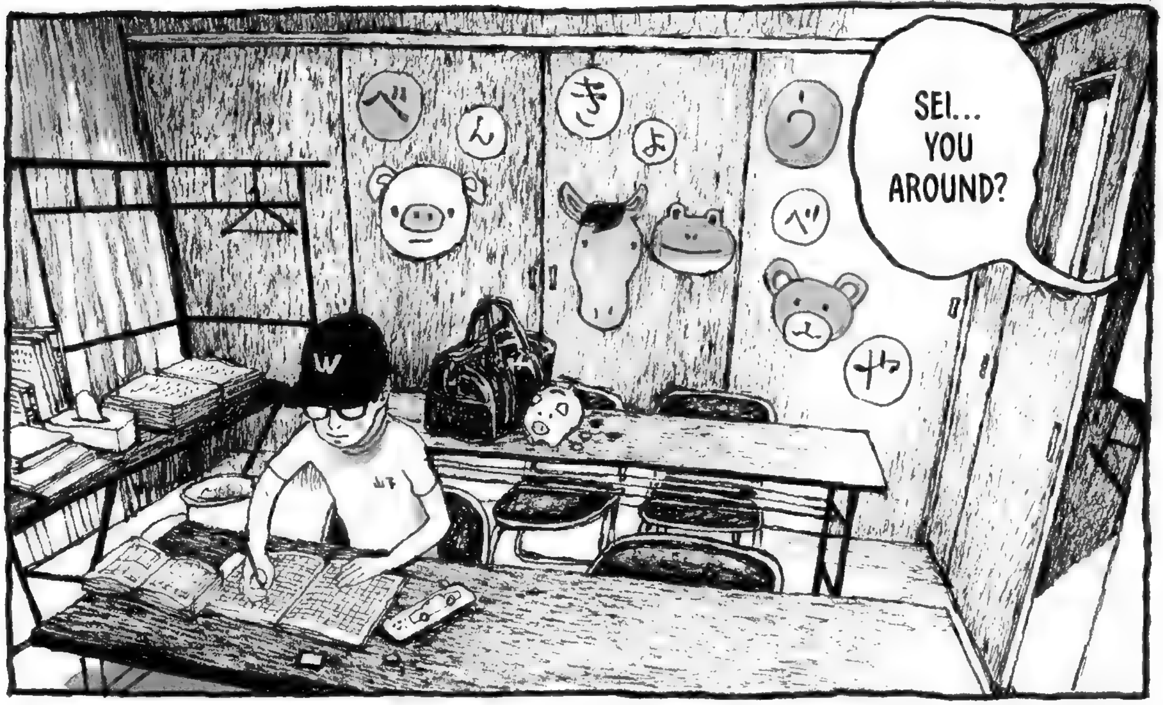
"Is 3,000 leagues far?"





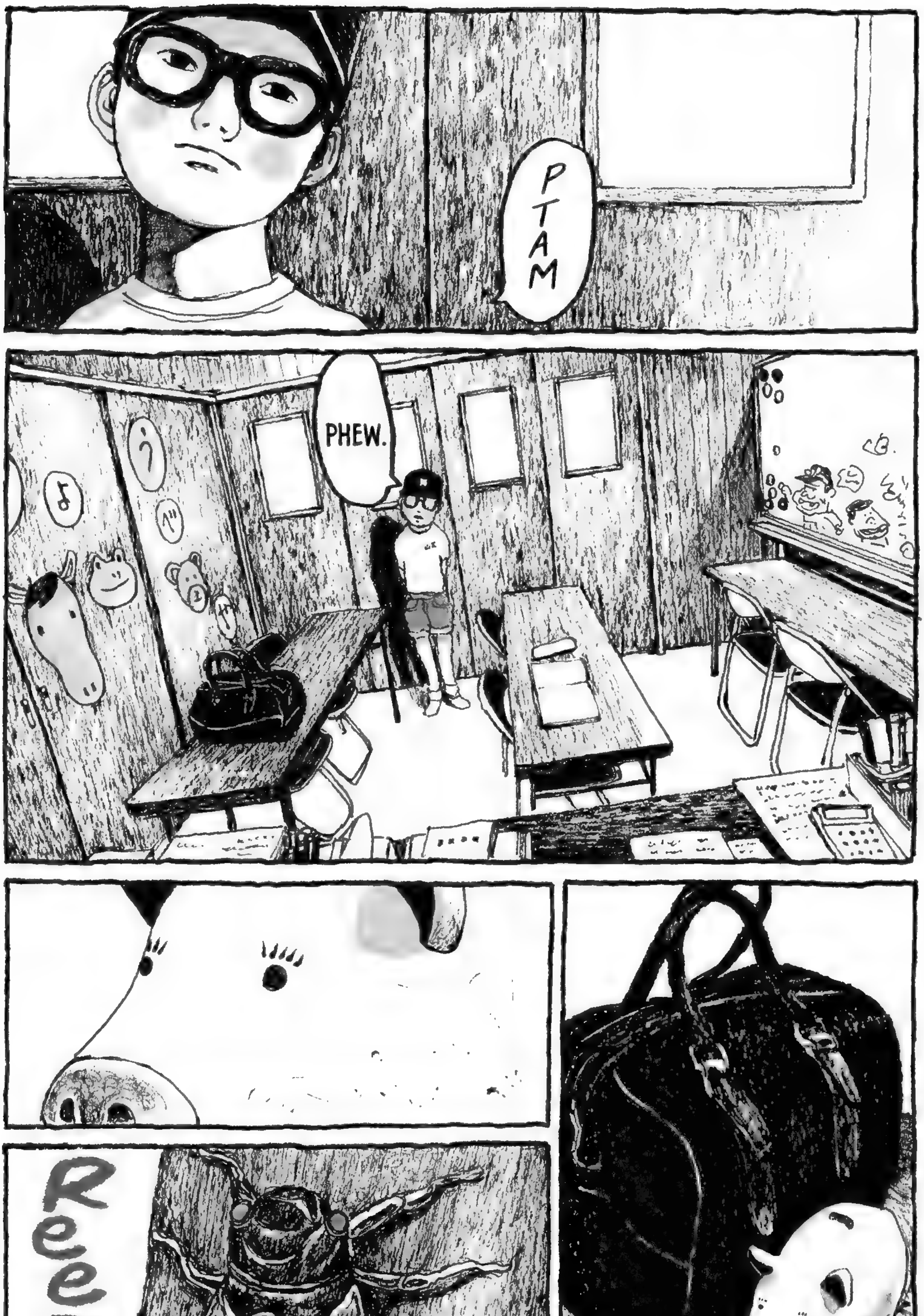


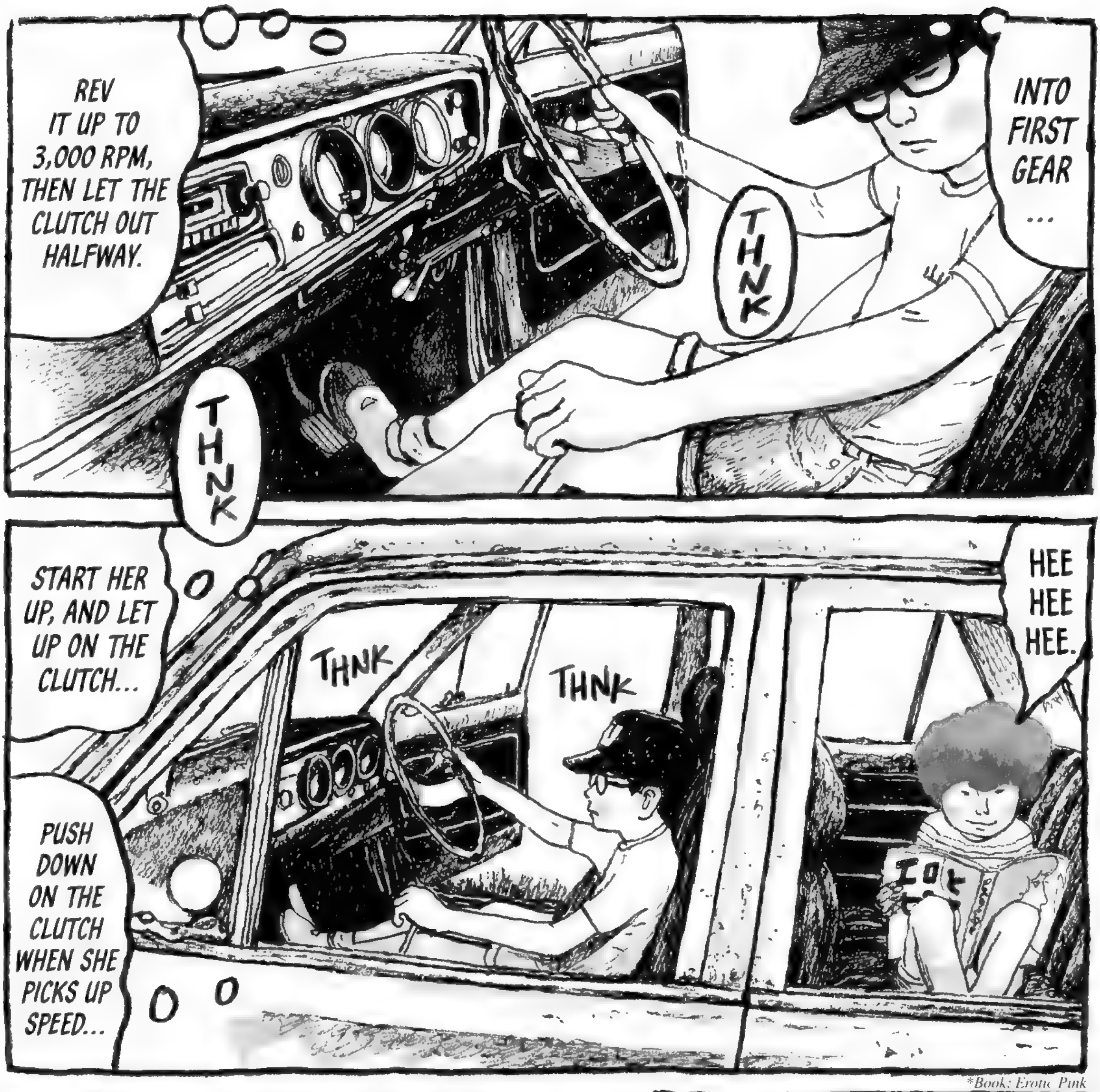
*In notebook: Car keys, map, flashlight, money, handkerchief



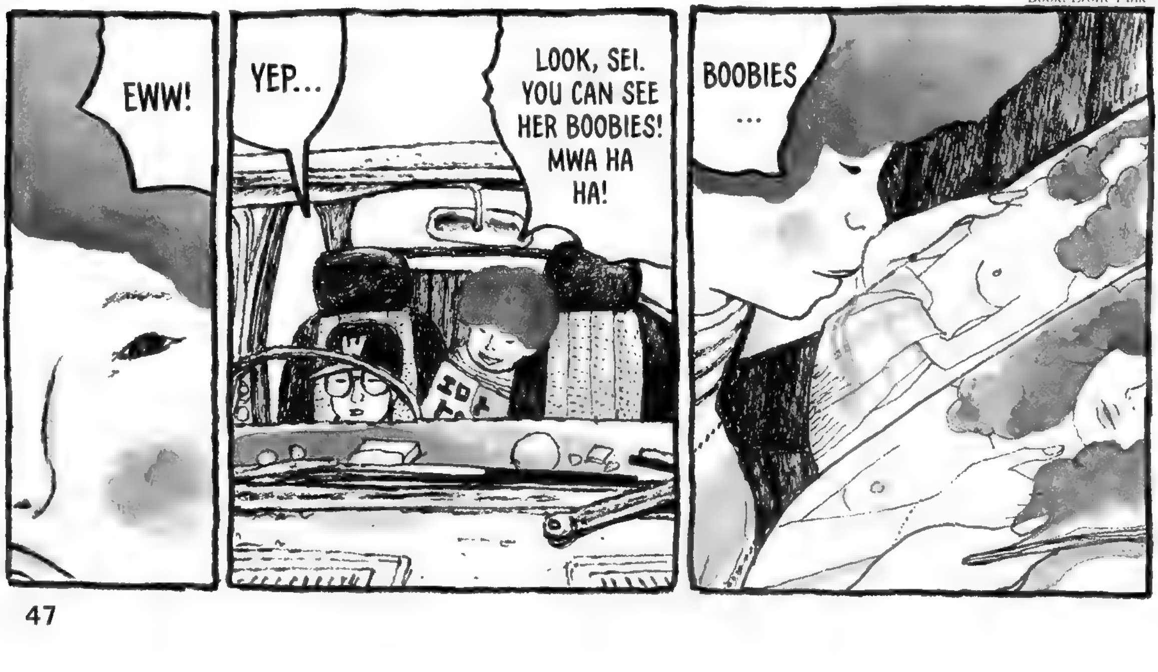

*Letters on wall: S-T-U-D-Y R-O-O-M

*Book: Timetable


PTAM
PHEW.
Reep




*Book: Erotic Pink



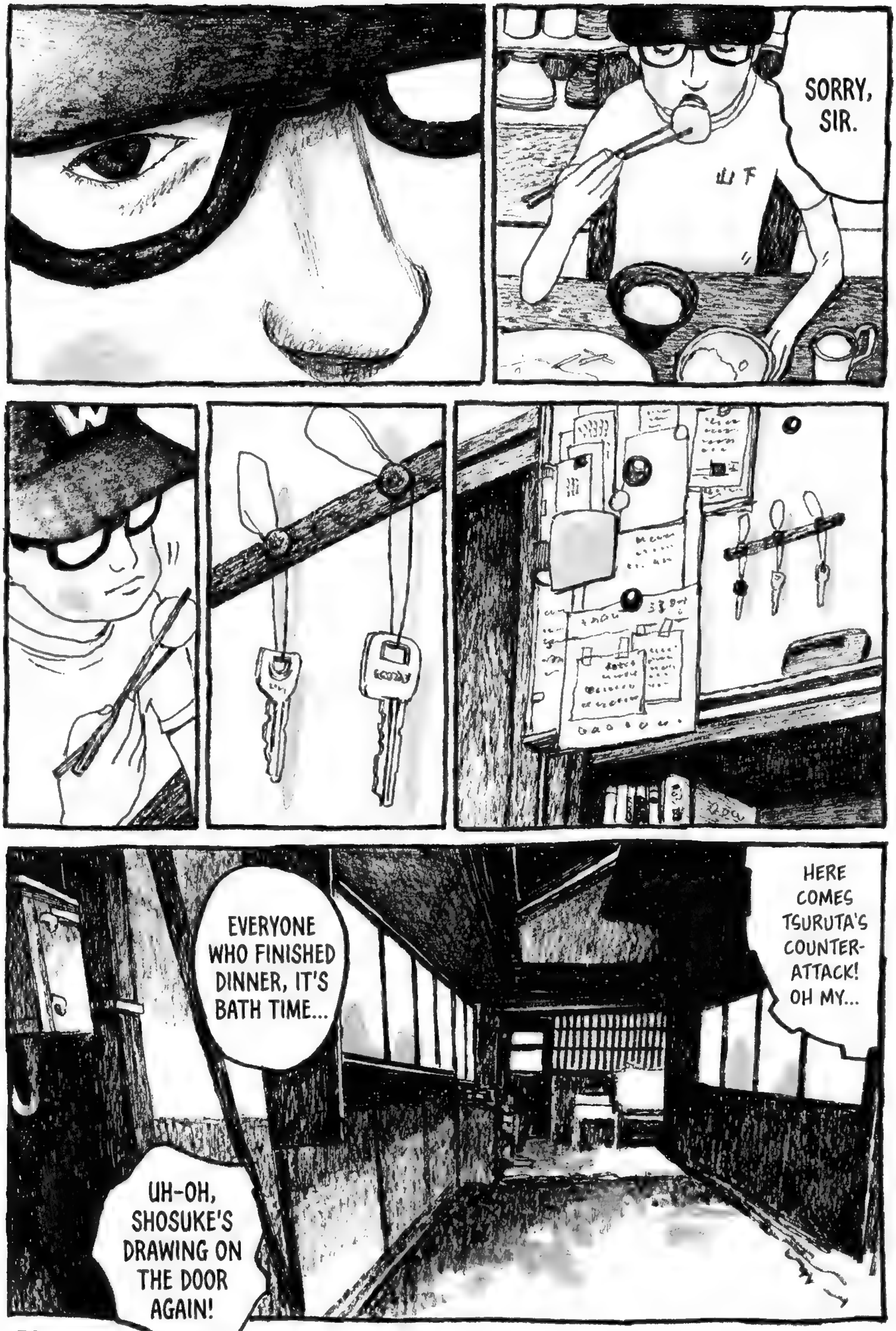
* *The Hunter* (Karyudo), *a manga for young boys by Akira Mochizuki and Hyuga Aoi, circa 1977.*

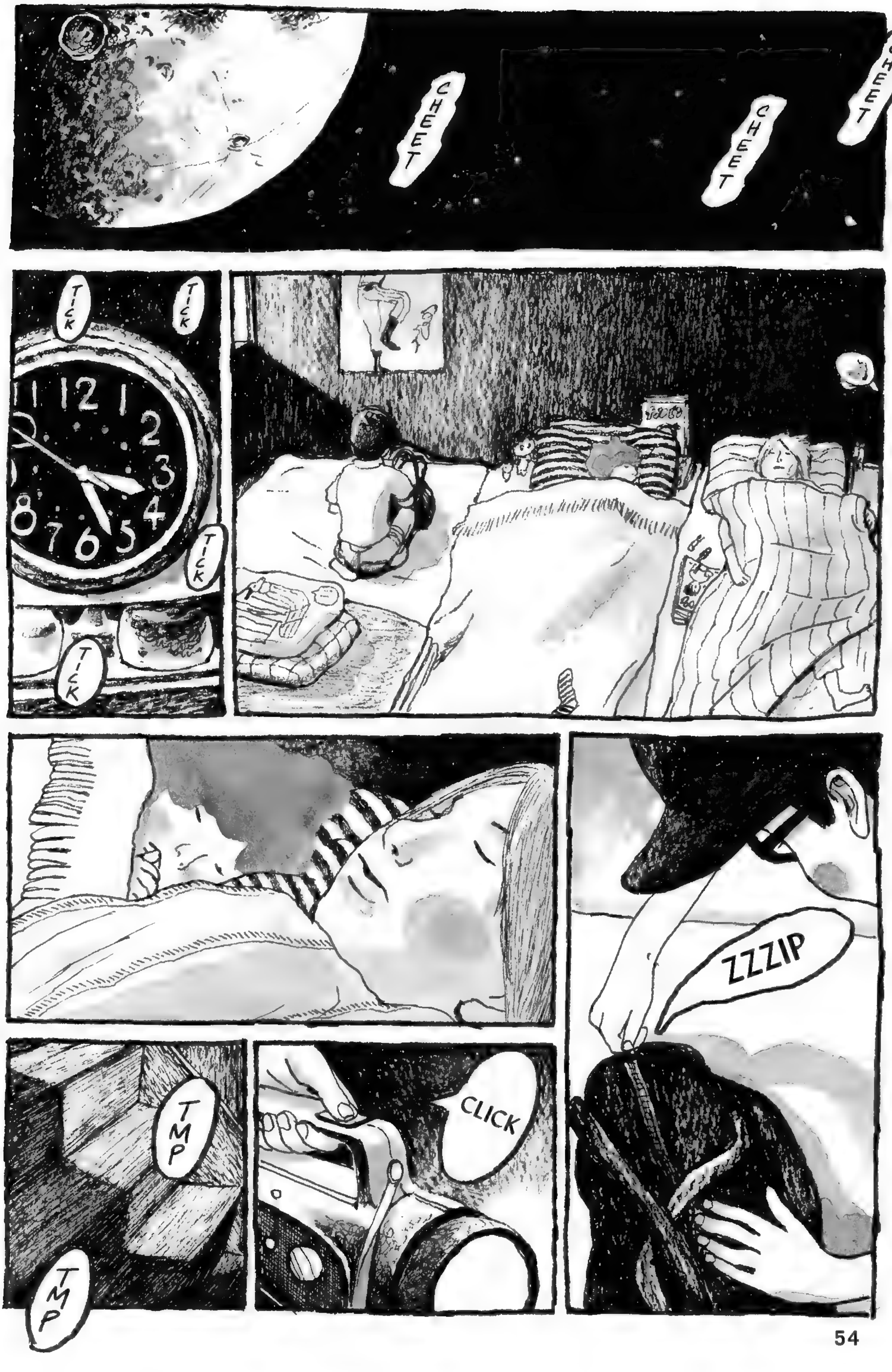
I GUESS I WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN SAD.
...
SHE WAS OKAY UNTIL YESTERDAY...
SHE LAID A LOT OF EGGS LAST SPRING.
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE CLASS FISH.
HEY, HEY!
PANT
PANT
I THINK HEAVEN HAS PEOPLE AND ANIMALS AND PLANTS ALL TOGETHER.
I DON'T THINK SO, JUNSUKE.
IF A GOLDFISH DIES, DOES IT GO TO A HEAVEN JUS' FOR GOLDFISH?
YOU SAID WHAT I WAS THINKIN'.
YEAH! THOUGHT SO.

*Jumbo Tsuruta vs. Mil Máscaras, a pro wrestling match in 1977

REEEP
REEEP
THAT'S WHAT KENJI SAID THE OTHER DAY.
BUT, Y'KNOW, WITH PRO WRESTLING THEY ALREADY KNOW WHO'S GONNA WIN.
REEEP
REEEP
REEEP
JUMBO TSURUTA IS FIGHTING BACK!!

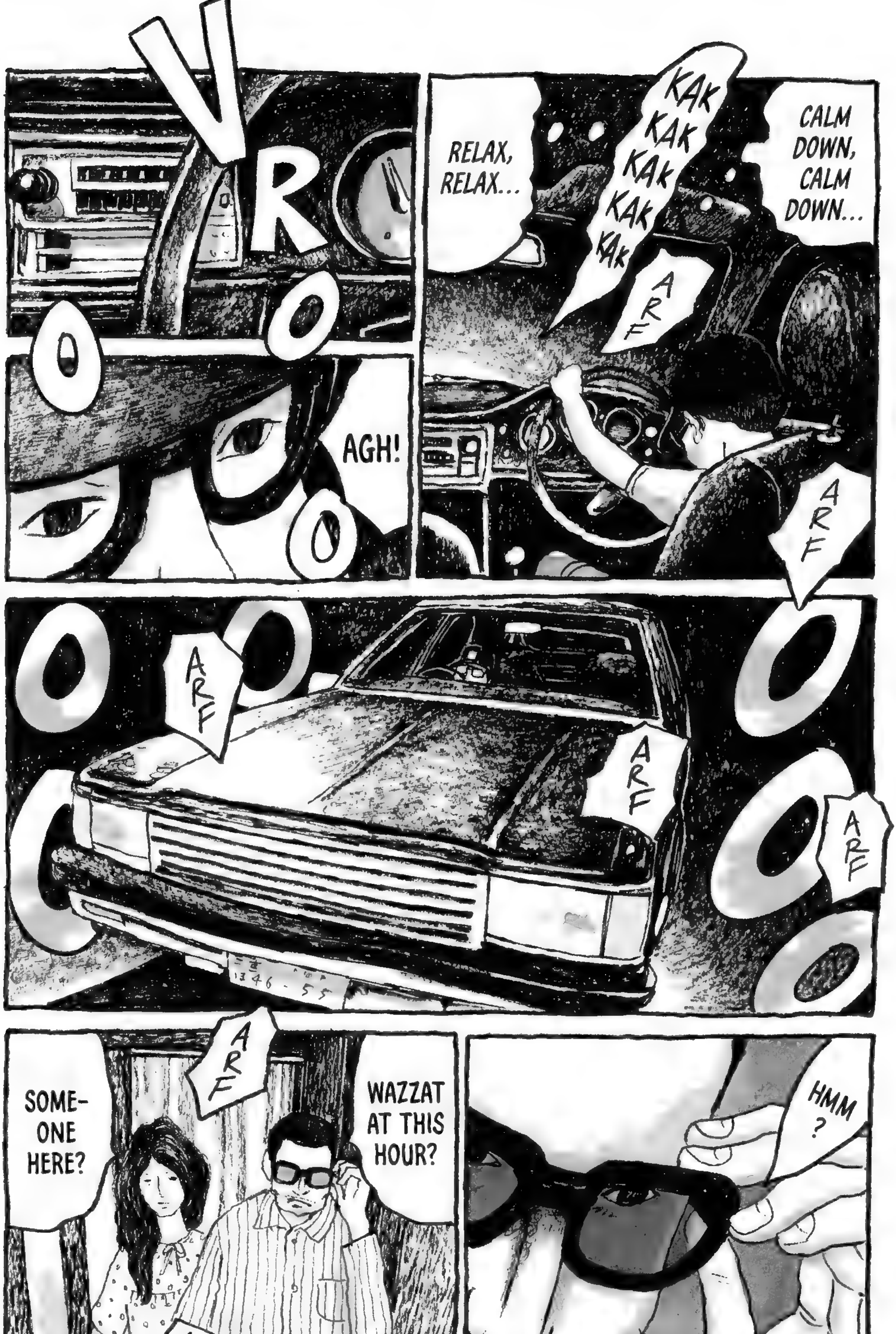
GOO.
BAM
CLOSE CALL FOR JUMBO!
BAM
OUTTA THA WAY!
HEY, CHIAKI, WE CAN'T SEE.
GA GA GOO.
THAT MIL MÁSCARAS IS QUICK ON HIS FEET.
THINK YOU COULD EAT A LITTLE FASTER?
YES, SIR.
YOU'RE SURE TAKING YOUR TIME WITH DINNER, SEI...


SORRY, SIR.
山下
EVERYONE WHO FINISHED DINNER, IT'S BATH TIME...
HERE COMES TSURUTA'S COUNTER-ATTACK! OH MY...
UH-OH, SHOSUKE'S DRAWING ON THE DOOR AGAIN!


CHEET
CHEET
CHEET
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
ZZZIP
TMP
TMP
CLICK

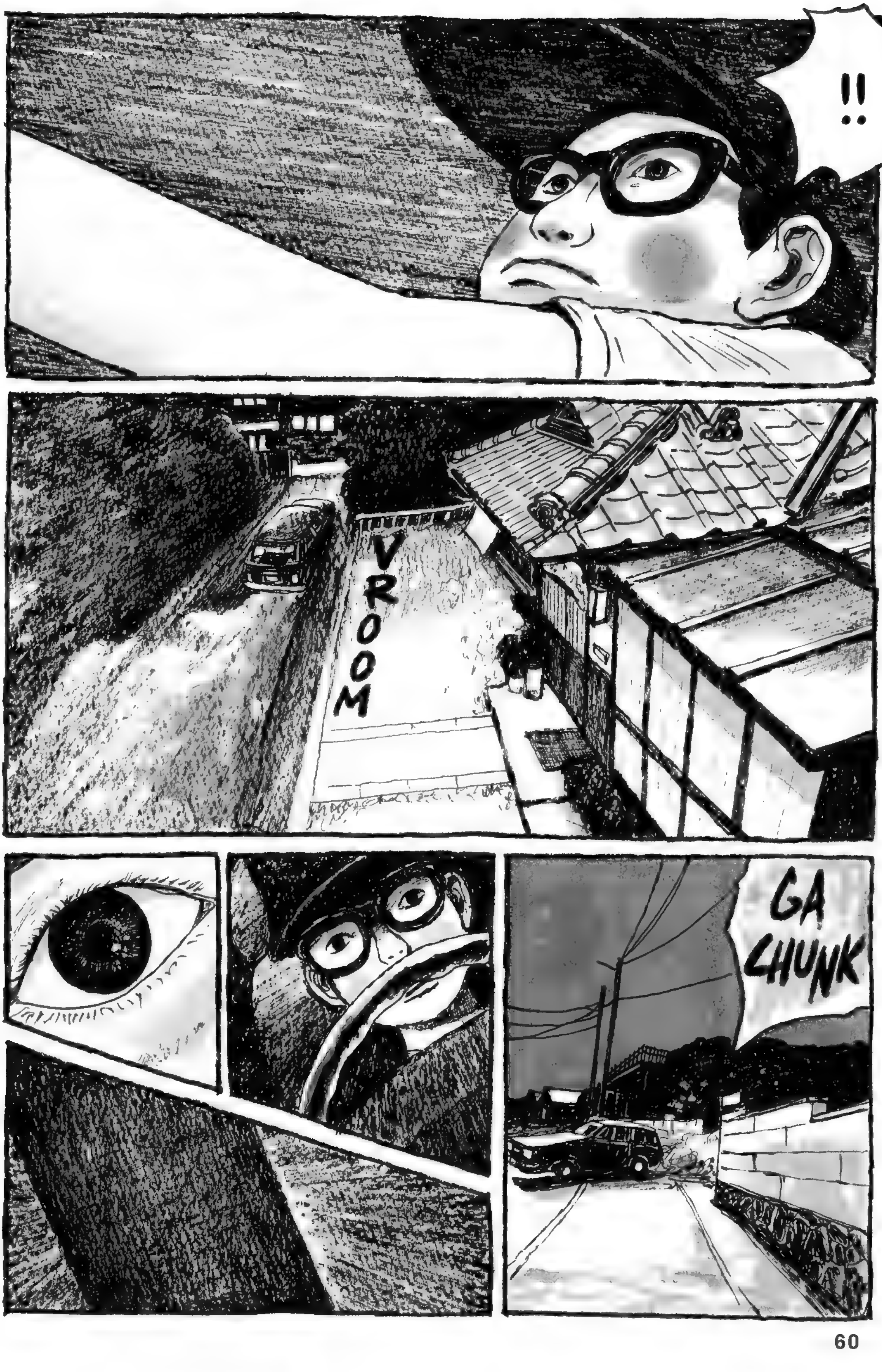
CHEET
KTUNK
CHEET
CHEET
CHEET
I PRACTICED SO MUCH...
SHUNK
I'LL BE OKAY...
THRAKA KAK KAK
PHEW.
VROOOO
WHOA!

?!
OH NO, IT'S REVVING TOO MUCH!
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN...
VRR
NN ...
...
VRROOOOO
CLUTCH IN.
REV DOWN.
ARF...
INTO FIRST GEAR.
VRROOOO
SLOWLY, SLOWLY...
THNK
GAGUNK
WAH!
IT STALLED?
ARF!


VROOOOO
RELAX, RELAX...
KAK KAK KAK KAK KAK
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN...
AGH!
ARF
ARF
OOOO
ARF
ARF
ARF
SOME-ONE HERE?
WAZZAT AT THIS HOUR?
ARF
ARF
HMM?

VROOOOOOO
ARF
ARF
WHA ...?
NGH.
ARF
CALM DOWN!!
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN...

HEY!
IT'S MOVING!
VRRR
GRUNKLE GRUNKLE
OOOO
GRUNKLE GRUNKLE
ARF
ARF
ARF
ISN'T THAT OUR CAR?
WHO'S DRIV-ING?!
THNK
SKREE


!!
VROOOM
GA CHUNK

BEEEP
CRUMP
BEEEEP

OH...
HI, KUMI...
I TOOK NOTES IN CLASS FOR SEI.
THANKS.
BUT HE CAN'T SEE YOU NOW.
IS HE HURT THAT BADLY?
NUH-UH.
NO BIG DEAL.
JUS' BANGED HIS FOREHEAD ON THE STEERING WHEEL AND PUT A BAND-AID ON IT.

BAD KIDS HAFTA GO IN THERE.
THE DETENTION ROOM.
HARUO ...
THE SLAMMER?
NOW HE'S IN THE SLAMMER.
HARUO'S IN THERE EVERY WEEK.
NO ONE ASKED ABOUT THAT!
DON'T WORRY, HE'LL BE OUT SOON. REALLY, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
OH, SEI... IT'S NOT HIS FAULT...
THEY'RE MAKIN' AN EXAMPLE OF HIM.

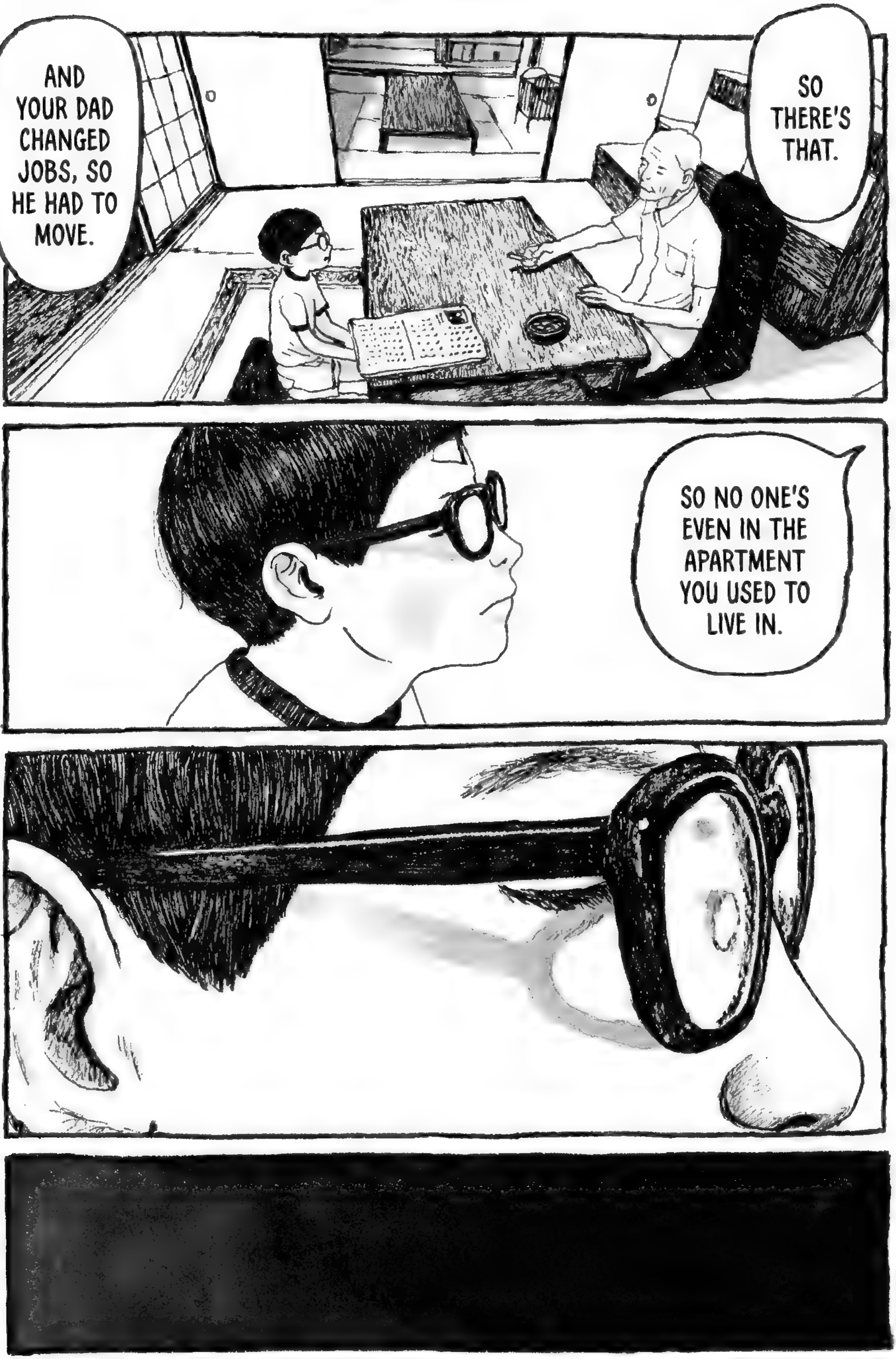
THE HOUSE-MASTER WANTS A QUICK WORD WITH YOU.
YES, SIR...
UM ...
YOU OKAY, SEI?
YES, SIR.
I'M GONNA OPEN UP...
CHAK
SHUT YOUR EYES NOW.
KREEEAK

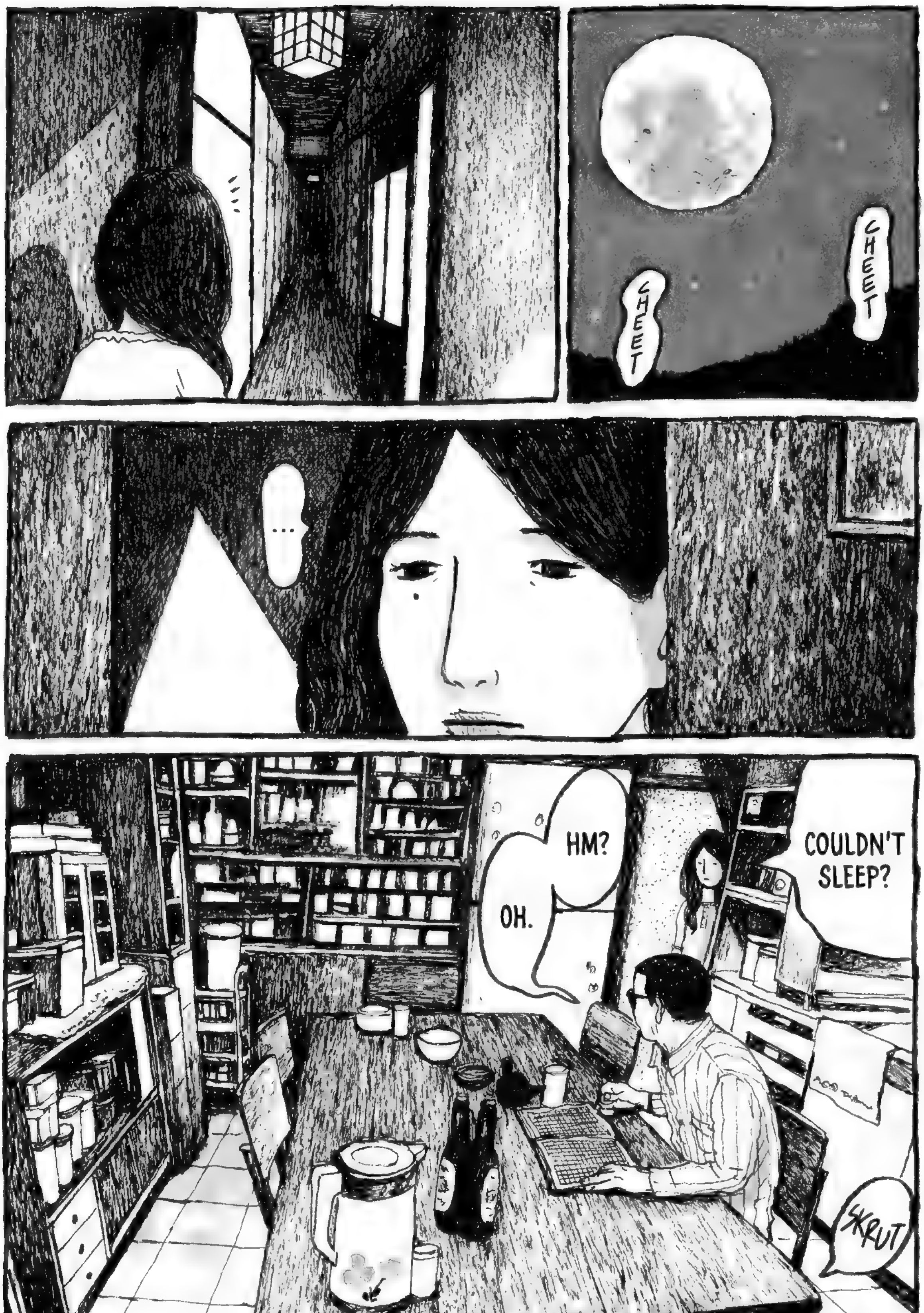
*Sign: Star Kids Home

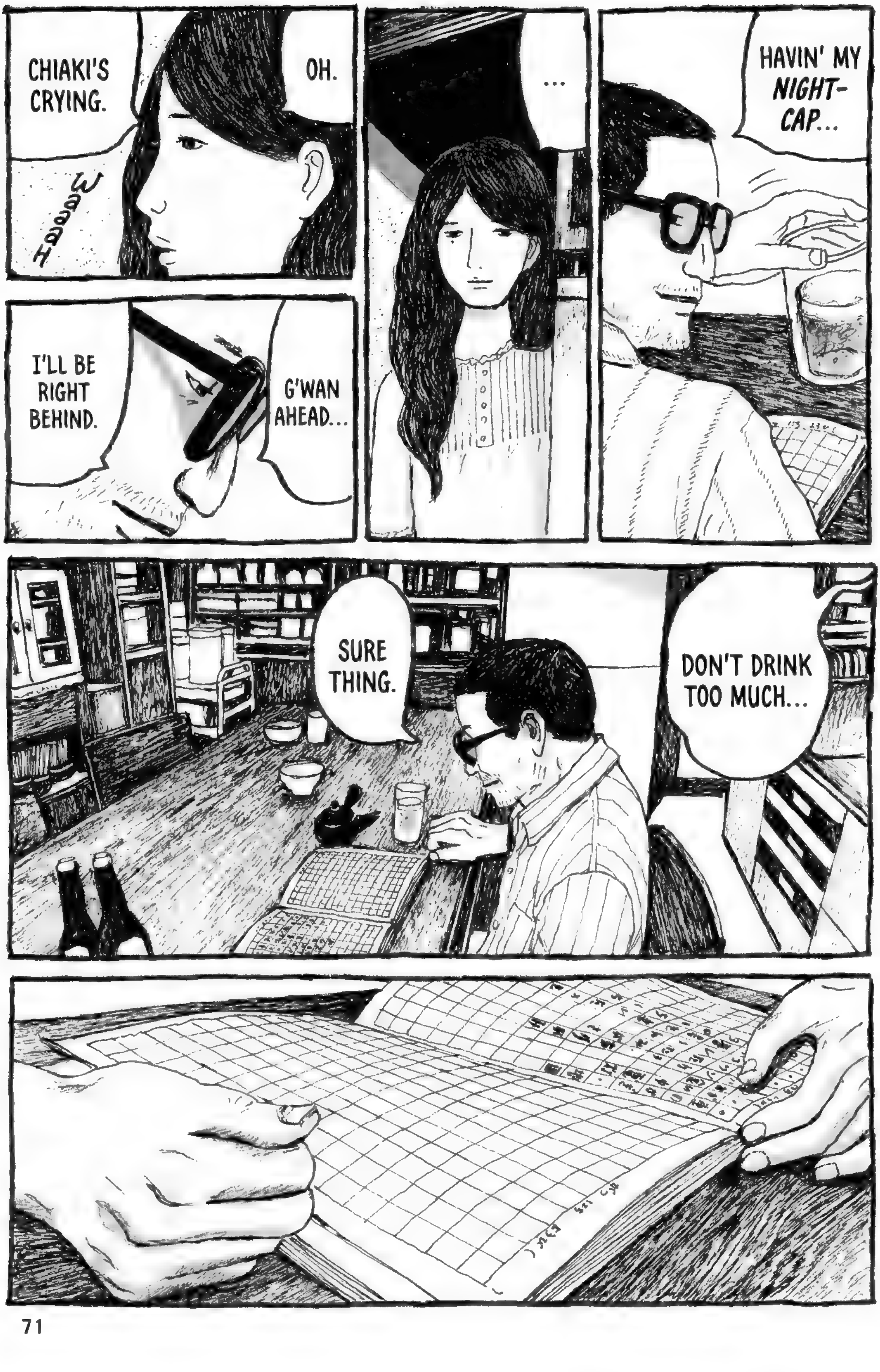
*TIME* IS REALLY AN AMAZING THING, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
ARF
ARF
Take that!
EEK!
Cut it out, Jun!
IT NEVER STOPS, JUST KEEPS ON GOING.
EVEN IN THE BEST TIMES AND THE WORST TIMES, IT JUST KEEPS MOVING FORWARD.
SO YOU CAN BE SURE THINGS WON'T GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER.
TIME IS REALLY A LIFESAVER, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING I SHOULD TELL YOU.
ACTUALLY, I SPOKE WITH ADACHI RECENTLY.
YEP.
...
...
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHERE YOUR MOTHER IS RIGHT NOW.
WE GOT A LETTER ASKING US NOT TO COME LOOKING FOR HER.

YOUR DAD SAID HE'S GOT AN IDEA WHERE SHE WENT.
WELL, THERE IT IS, BUT DON'T WORRY.
HA HA HA HA
Hai-ya!
I THINK YOUR MOTHER'S PROBABLY JUST A LITTLE TIRED.
ARF
ARF
I'M SURE YOU KNOW, BUT ALL THOSE MONEY PROBLEMS AND WHATNOT...
SHE'LL BE BACK AFTER A LITTLE WHILE...
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.


AND YOUR DAD CHANGED JOBS, SO HE HAD TO MOVE.
SO THERE'S THAT.
SO NO ONE'S EVEN IN THE APARTMENT YOU USED TO LIVE IN.


CHEET
CHEET
...
HM?
OH.
COULDN'T SLEEP?
SKRUT


CHIAKI'S CRYING.
WAAAAH
OH.
I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND.
G'WAN AHEAD...
...
HAVIN' MY NIGHT-CAP...
DON'T DRINK TOO MUCH...
SURE THING.

3:30 AM, DEPART IN STAR KIDS HOME CAR.
4:00 AM, ARRIVE AT STATION.
LEAVE CAR PARKED WITH KEYS IN IGNITION.
DRIP
BOARD FIRST OUTBOUND TRAIN OF THE DAY.
DRIP
5:40 AM, CHANGE TO THE SEMI-EXPRESS TRAIN.
6:00 AM, ARRIVE NAGOYA.
BOARD BULLET TRAIN BOUND FOR TOKYO, 1,490 YEN.

8:40 AM, ARRIVE SHIN-YOKOHAMA.
AT EAST KANAGAWA CHANGE TO THE TRAIN BOUND FOR ISOGO.
Z Z Z
CALL STAR KIDS HOME AND APOLOGIZE FOR WORRYING THEM.
9:10 AM, ARRIVE YOKOHAMA.
BUY FLOWERS FOR MOTHER AT THE FLOWER SHOP BY THE STATION.

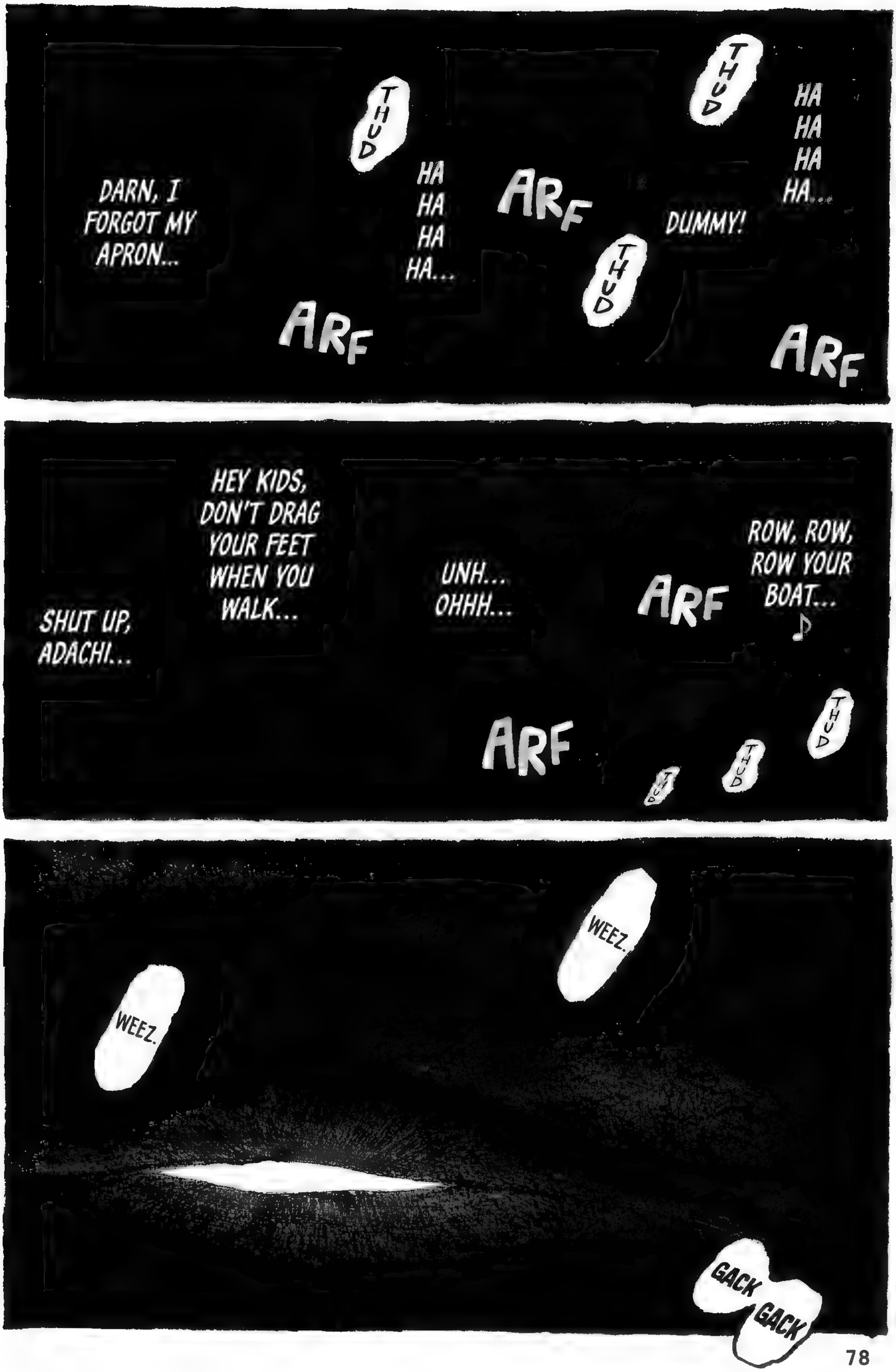
BUS TO TOBE HOUSING PROJECTS, 40 YEN.
GET OFF AT "SASAGUCHI-SHITA INTER-SECTION."
GO TO FATHER'S WORKSHOP.

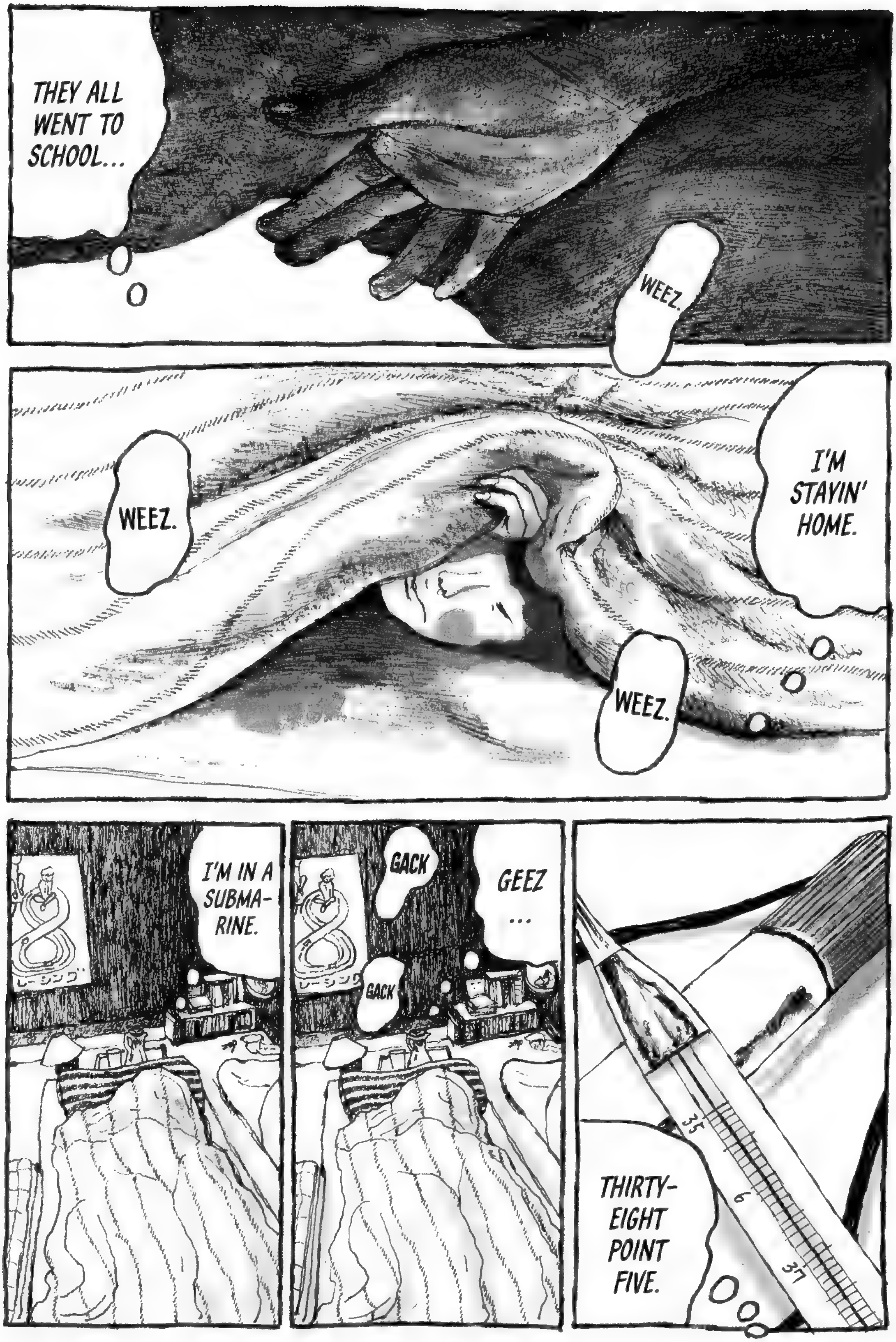
GO HOME TOGETHER.

# CHAPTER 27

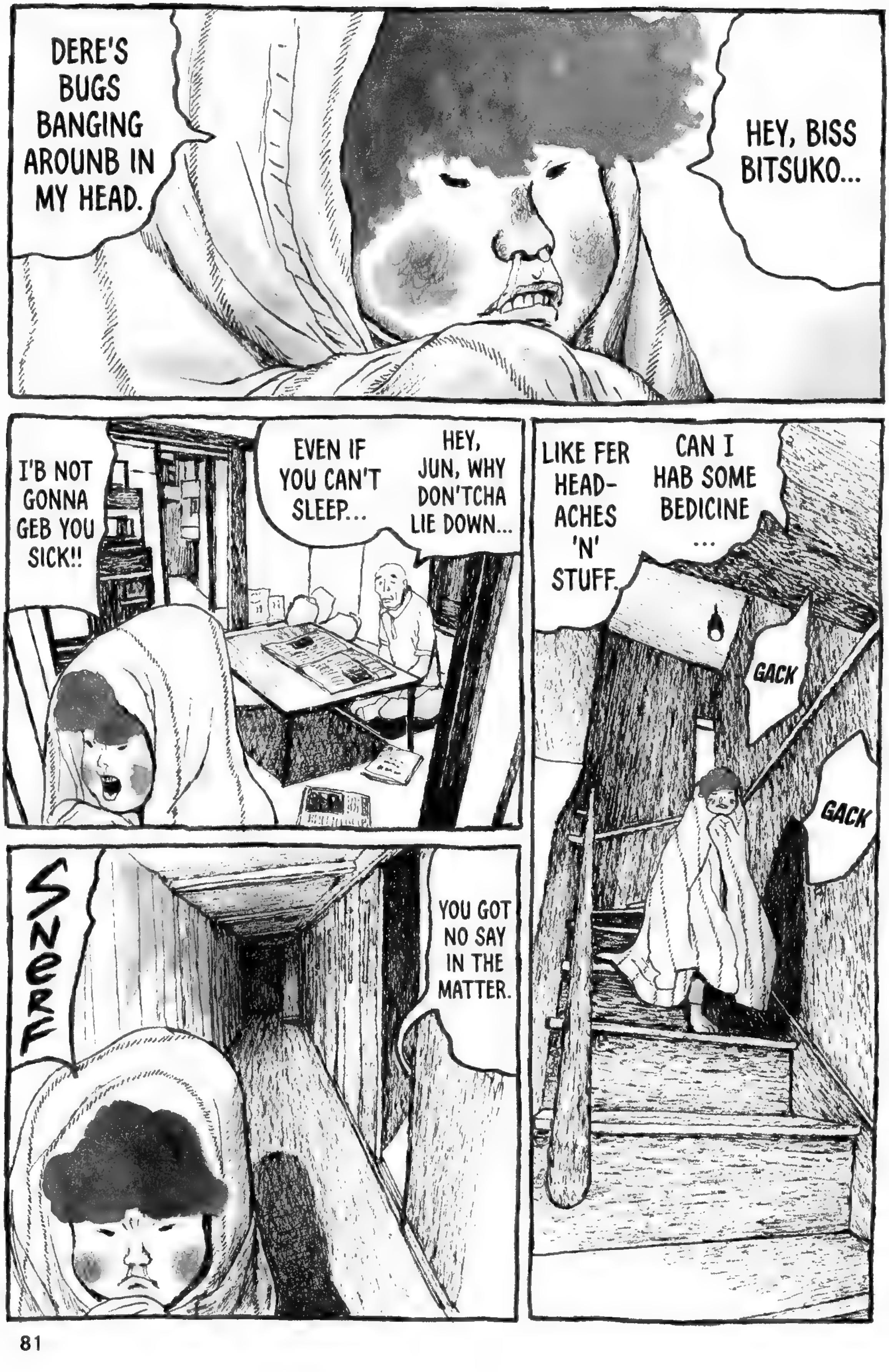
"My nose is so runny I think my brain's leakin' out."

"You ain't even got a brain anymore!"


DARN, I FORGOT MY APRON...
THUD
HA HA HA HA...
ARF
ARF
THUD
DUMMY!
THUD
HA HA HA HA...
ARF
SHUT UP, ADACHI...
HEY KIDS, DON'T DRAG YOUR FEET WHEN YOU WALK...
UNH... OHHH...
ARF
ARF
ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT... ♪
THUD
THUD
THUD
WEEZ.
WEEZ.
GACK
GACK


THEY ALL WENT TO SCHOOL...
WEEZ.
WEEZ.
I'M STAYIN' HOME.
WEEZ.
I'M IN A SUBMA-RINE.
GACK
GEEZ ...
GACK
35
6
37
THIRTY-EIGHT POINT FIVE.

WHALES.
GACK
GACK
GACK
BAM
BAM
BUGS BANGING AROUND IN MY HEAD.
SNERF
UNH ...



DERE'S BUGS BANGING AROUNB IN MY HEAD.
HEY, BISS BITSUKO...
HEY, JUN, WHY DON'TCHA LIE DOWN...
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T SLEEP...
I'B NOT GONNA GEB YOU SICK!!
CAN I HAB SOME BEDICINE ...
LIKE FER HEAD-ACHES 'N' STUFF.
GACK
GACK
YOU GOT NO SAY IN THE MATTER.
SNERF

WAZZIT?
APPLE SAUCE...
I SAID HEADACHE BEDICINE!
YOU JUST HAD COUGH SYRUP, RIGHT?
SO EAT THAT AND GO UP TO BED.
?!
WEEZ
WEEZ
DOT HUNGRY.
WELL THEN JUST G'WAN UP AND LIE DOWN.

OHHH.
SLURP
SLURP
Me too. Me too.
Weez
Weez
PLIP
THE TINY TEN-CENTIMETER ME AND SOUSUKE ARE EATIN'.
HEH HEH HEH.
It's sweet.
It's sweet.
It's sweet.
THEY SAY IT'S SWEET. GACK GACK
YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?

GACK
GACK
...
WEEZ
WEEZ
SPLISH
SPLISH
BAKIO, WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING?
GACK
HEY THERE, JUNSUKE.
HEARD YOU WERE SICK.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE LYIN' DOWN?
YOU PLAYIN' IN THE WABBER?
NO, NO...

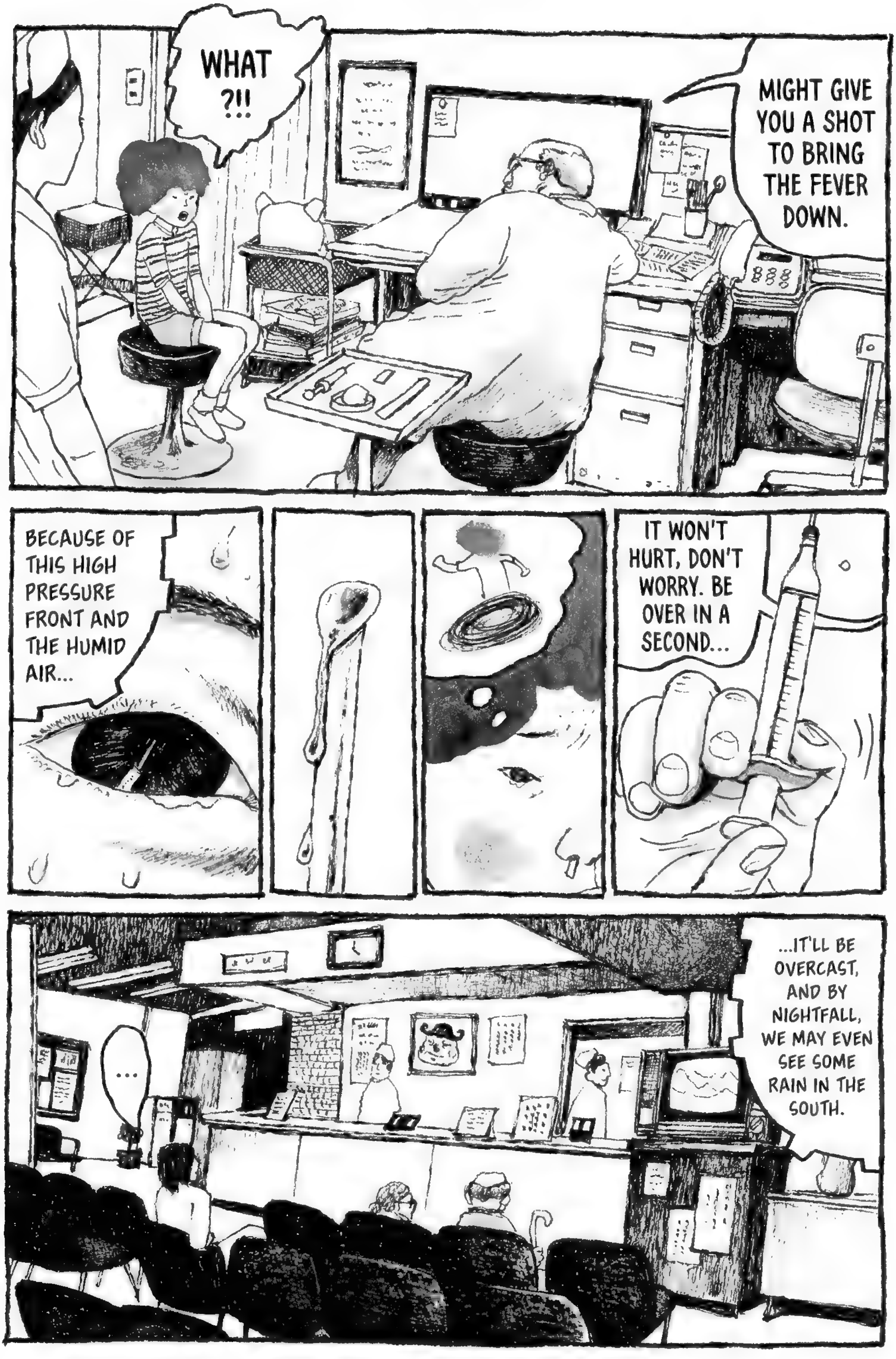
ONE OF THE CARP DIED THIS MORNING.
WE'RE GONNA MAKE A GRAVE FOR IT.
AND WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WE'RE TAKING ALL THE CARP OUTTA THE POND AND CHANGING THE WATER.
YEAH?
WELL THE GOLDFISH IN MY CLASS DIED...
AND THAT NERD KUMI SAID EVERYONE GOES TO HEAVEN *TOBETHER*....
?
OH YEAH?
THE OTHER CARP DOB'T LOOK TOO SAD...
I GUESS THEY DOB'T MIND IF THEIR FRIENDS DIE.
GACK
GACK
I DON'T KNOW...
DON'TCHA THINK THEY'RE A LITTLE SAD?

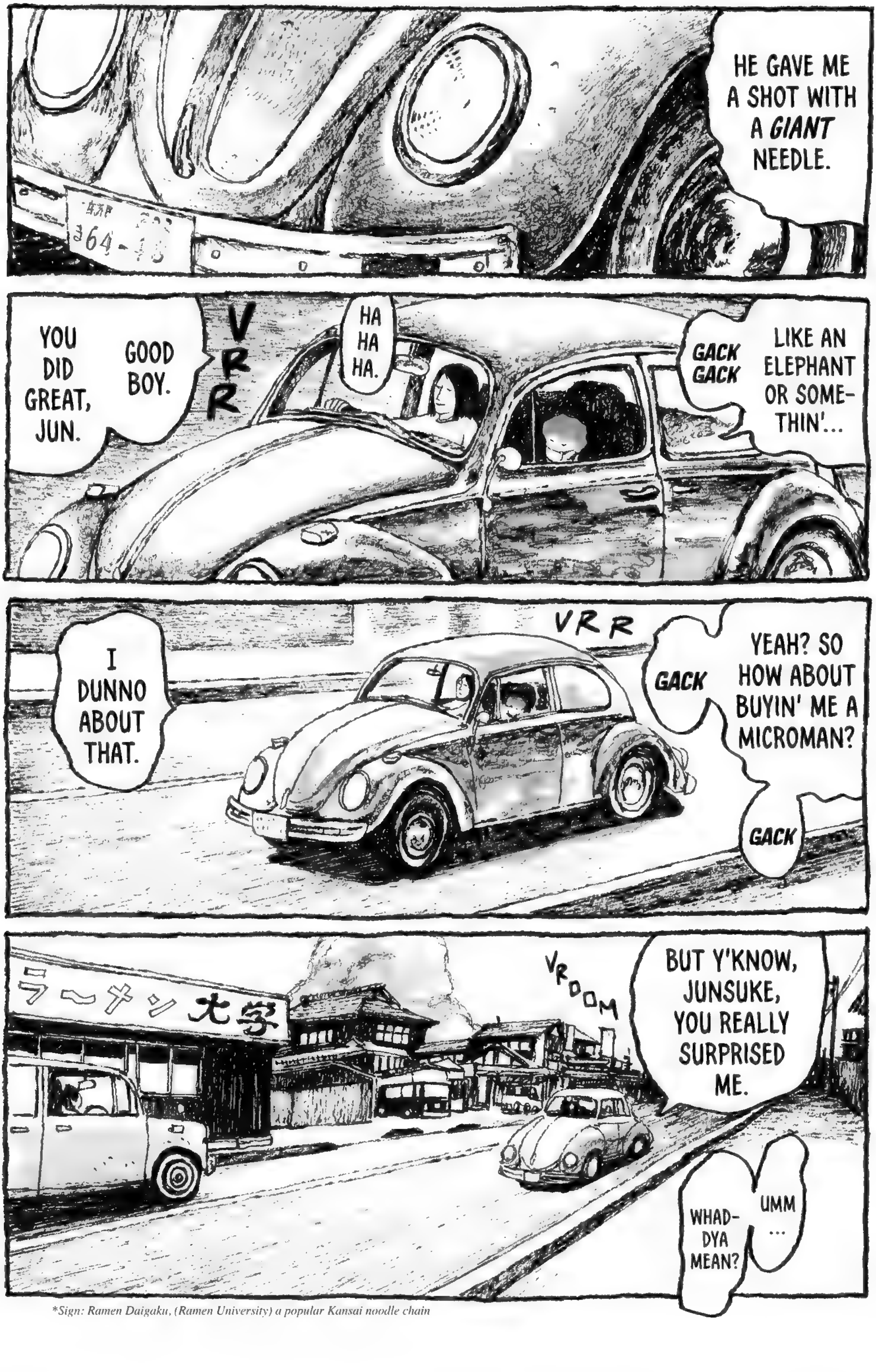
HEY, BAKIO ...
WHAD'S BETTER, TEN CENTI-METERS OR A HUNDRED METERS?
HUH ?
WHAD-DYA MEAN?
IF YA HADDA BE TEN CENTIMETERS OR A HUNDRED METERS TALL...
SPLASH
LIKE TO BE THAT SIZE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...
UMM ...
NOT SURE I LIKE EITHER ONE...
HMM ...
HOW ABOUT *THIRTY* CENTIMETERS INSTEAD OF TEN?
NO.
IB'S ***TEN.***
DAS WHAD HARUO SAID.

UH-HUH.
LIKE FISH FOOD SIZE, RIGHT?
GACK
SPLASH SPLASH
I WONDER WHICH IS BETTER...
NO PROB-LEM.
YEAH.
MAKIO, WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT, COULD YOU TAKE JUN OVER TO THE HOSPITAL?
WAAAAAH
NOOO !!

BUT YOUR COUGH'S JUST GETTING WORSE...
GACK GACK I DON'T WADDA GO TO THE HOSPITAL !!
C'MON NOW, JUN...
TMP TMP TMP
I'B RATHER DIE!!
NO WAY!!
C'MON, JUNSUKE, LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE.
NO WAY!
SO G'WAN AND GET IT LOOKED AT.
NOOOO!
GACK
GACK
LEMME ALONE !!
CLOMP
BOMP
TMP TMP TMP TMP
UHH.
TARO, GRAB HIM, WILLYA...

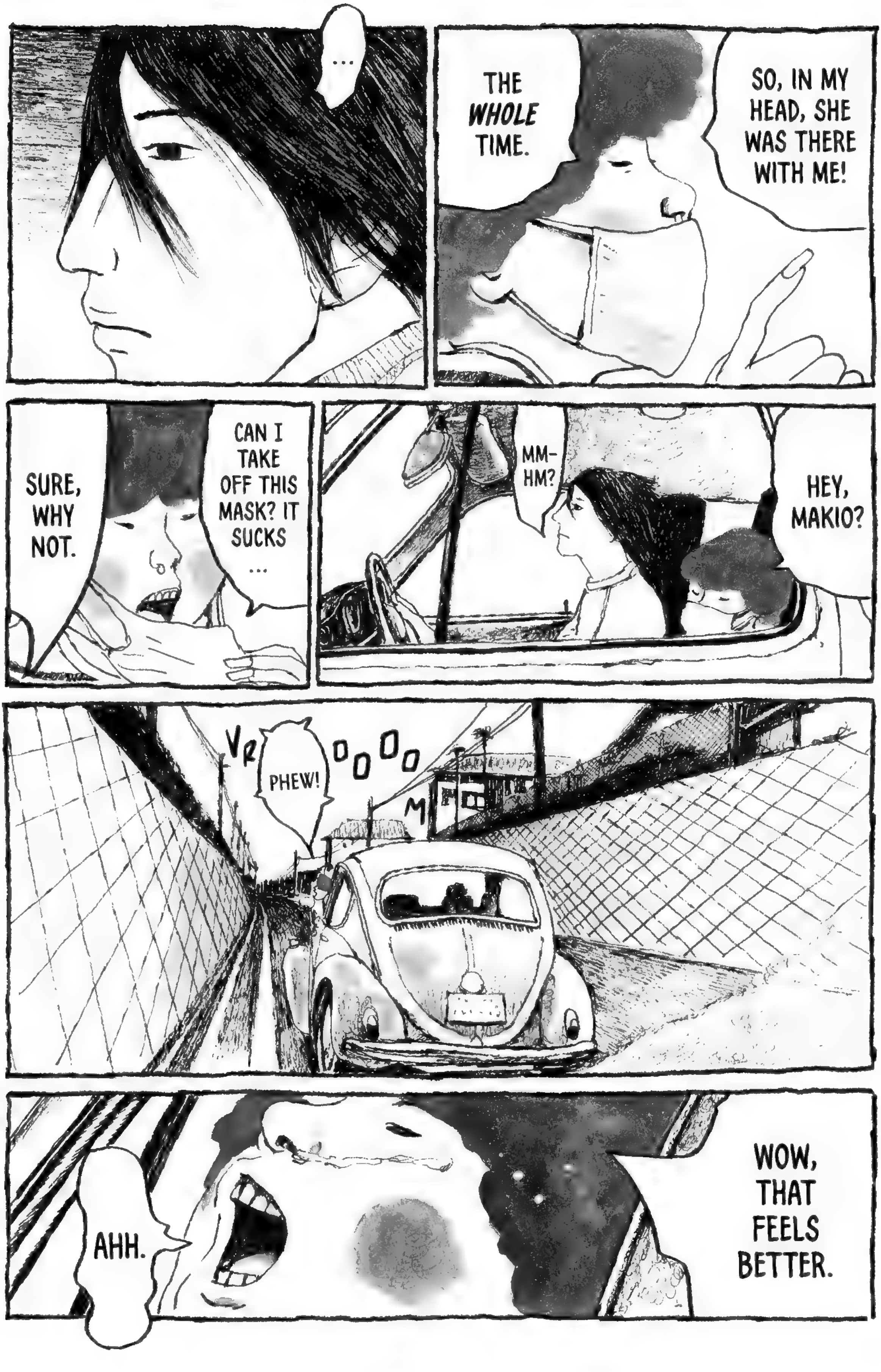
OKAY, NOW SAY "AHH."
AHH
SO, YOU'VE GOT A COLD.
PULL UP YOUR SHIRT.
IT'LL BE A LITTLE COLD...
UH-HUH.


WHAT ?!!
MIGHT GIVE YOU A SHOT TO BRING THE FEVER DOWN.
BECAUSE OF THIS HIGH PRESSURE FRONT AND THE HUMID AIR...
IT WON'T HURT, DON'T WORRY. BE OVER IN A SECOND...
...
...IT'LL BE OVERCAST, AND BY NIGHTFALL, WE MAY EVEN SEE SOME RAIN IN THE SOUTH.




*Sign: Ramen Daigaku, (Ramen University) a popular Kansai noodle chain

I PRETENDED MY MOMMY WAS THERE!
Y'KNOW ...
...
WHEN WE WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA COMPLAIN MORE.
?
HOSPITALS ALL SMELL THE SAME, RIGHT?
AND EVEN THOUGH IT'S A DIFFERENT HOSPITAL, IT FELT LIKE SHE WAS THERE.
SO I THOUGHT ABOUT MY MOMMY...


...
SO, IN MY HEAD, SHE WAS THERE WITH ME!
THE *WHOLE* TIME.
HEY, MAKIO?
MM-HM?
CAN I TAKE OFF THIS MASK? IT SUCKS ...
SURE, WHY NOT.
VROOOOOM
PHEW!
WOW, THAT FEELS BETTER.
AHH.

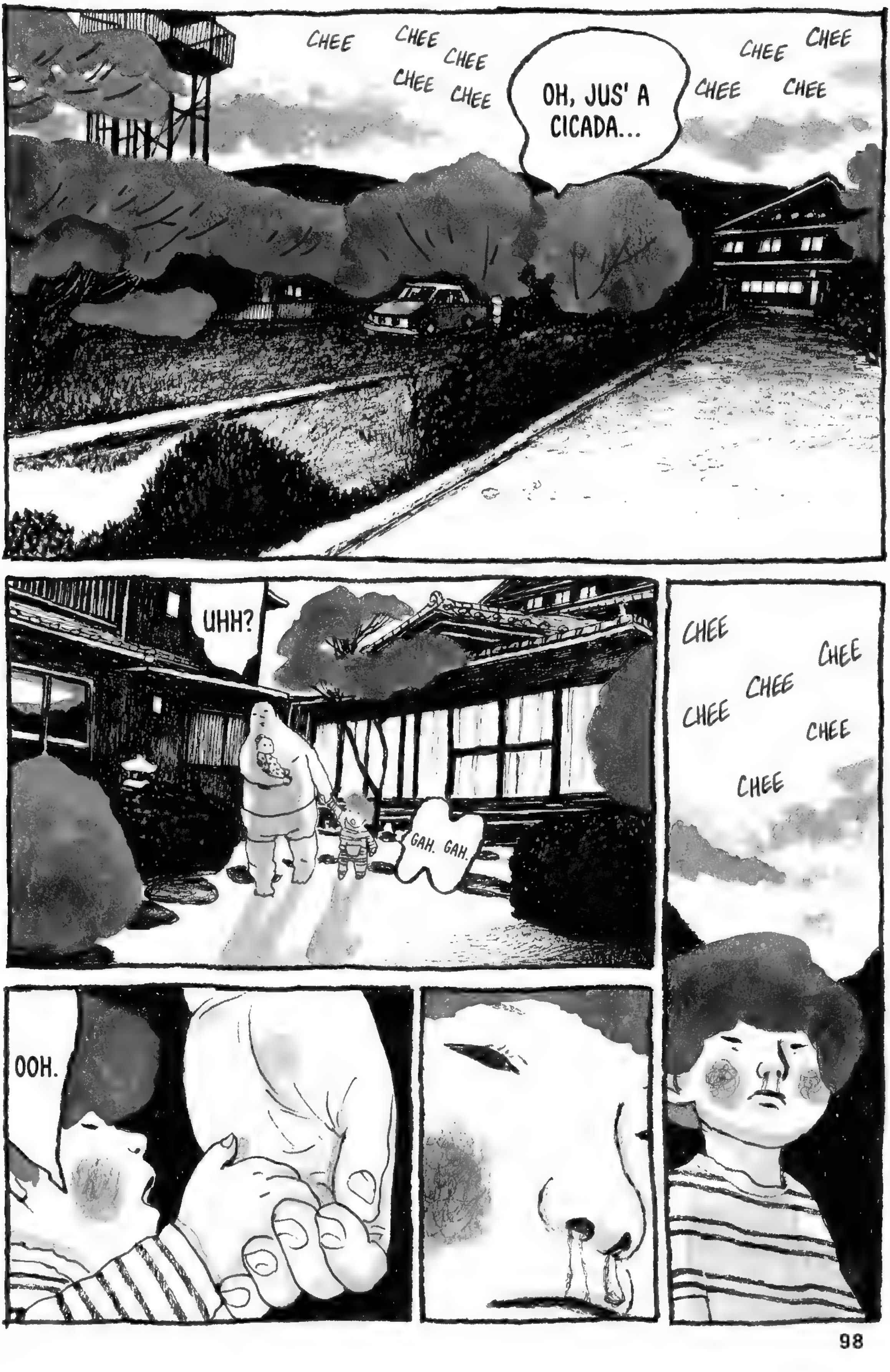
VOOSH
I GUESS IF I COULD...
HEH HEH ...
VROOOM

VOOSH
I'D WANNA BE A HUNDRED METERS TALL.

VOOSH

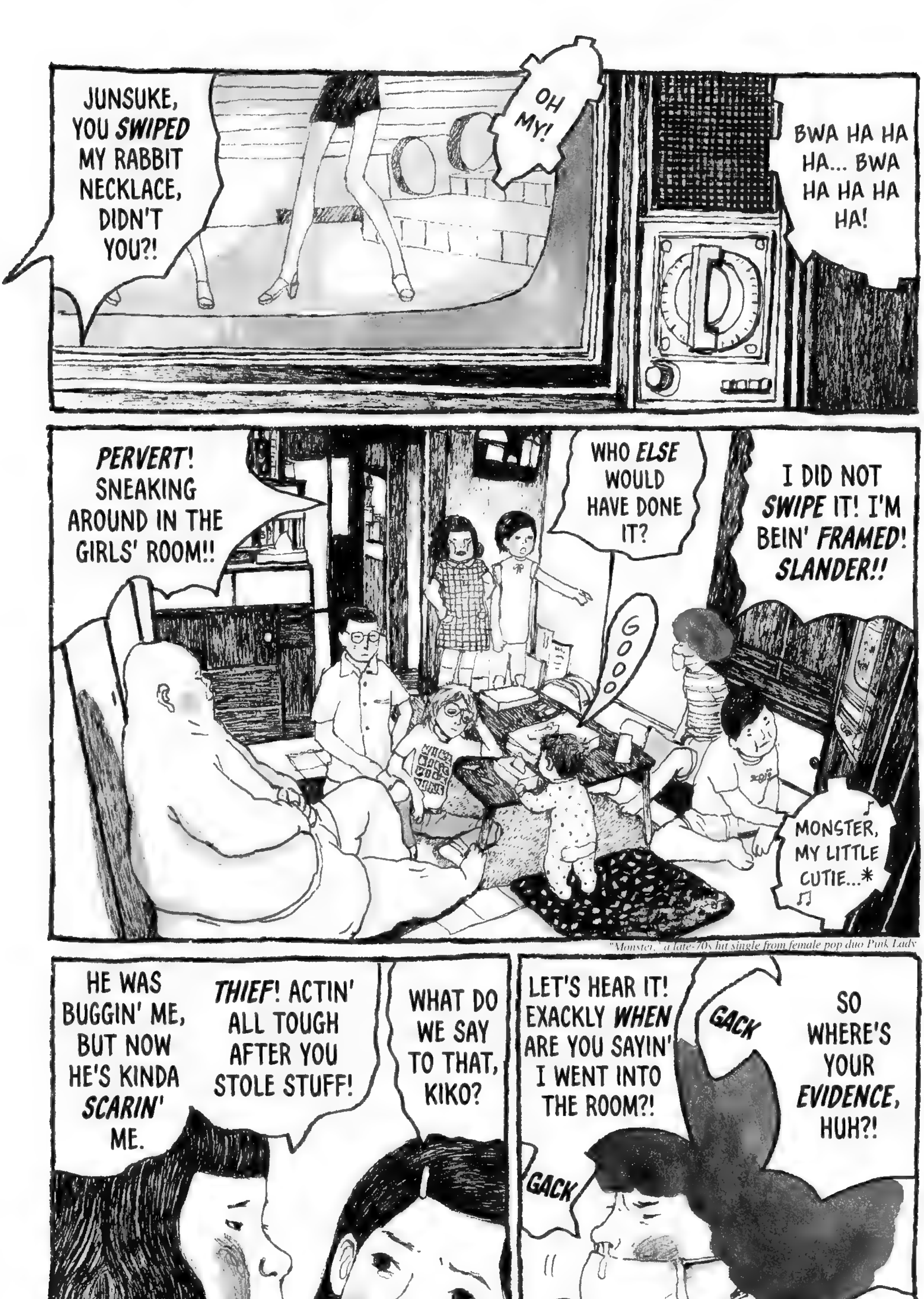
*"Namu Amida Butsu," often chanted at Buddhist funeral ceremonies.*

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF PORNO MAGS BACK HERE.
the beach
HEY, MAKIO...
WHERE'D KENJI GET ALL THIS STUFF?
WHAT IS IT? A BIRD?
CHEE CHEE CHEE
THAT "CHEE-CHEE" SOUND IN THE EVENING...
HM ?
NO, IT'S A KIND OF CICADA.
A "SUN-DOWNER."


CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
OH, JUS' A CICADA...
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
UHH?
GAH. GAH.
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
OOH.

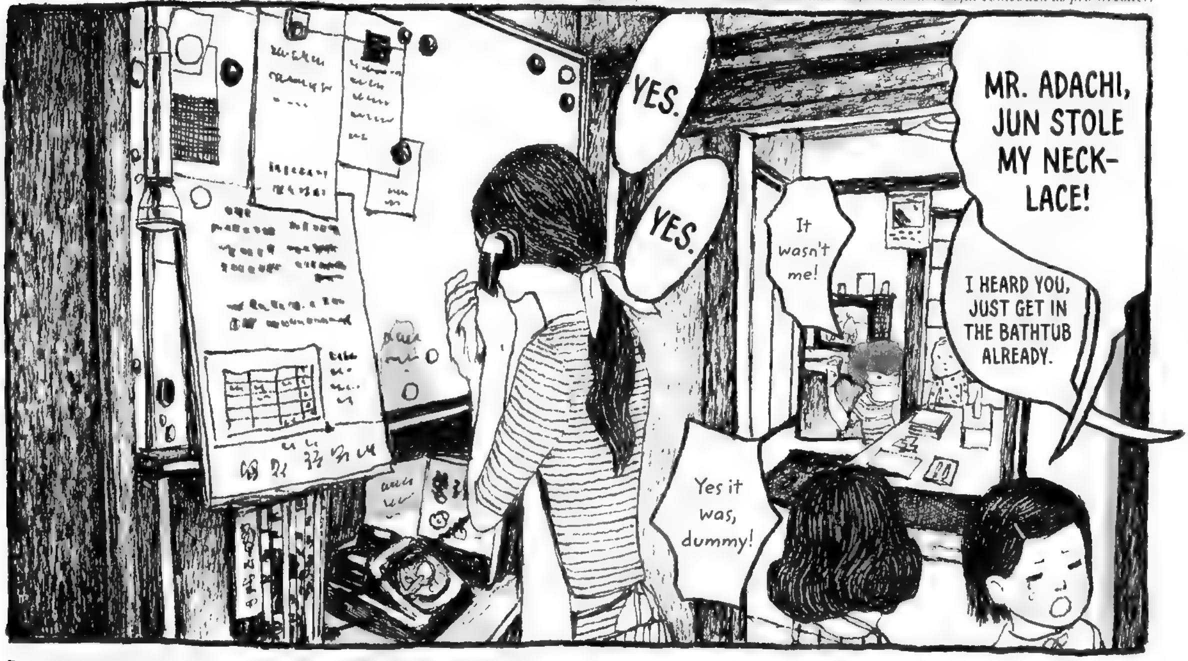
LOTSA CIGARETTE BUTTS TOO...
HEY, JUN ...
YOU GUYS AREN'T *SMOKING* WITH HIM ...
HEY JUN, WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I DON'T KNOW...
I GOT SCARED.
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE

IT'S OKAY, JUNSUKE.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT...
I THINK ABOUT MY MOM BEIN' SICK AND I GET SCARED.
I FEEL OKAY IN THE DAYTIME, BUT I GET SCARED WHEN IT'S DARK.
YOUR MOM'S *DEFINITELY* GONNA GET BETTER.
REALLY?
YEAH, REALLY.
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
I PROMISE.

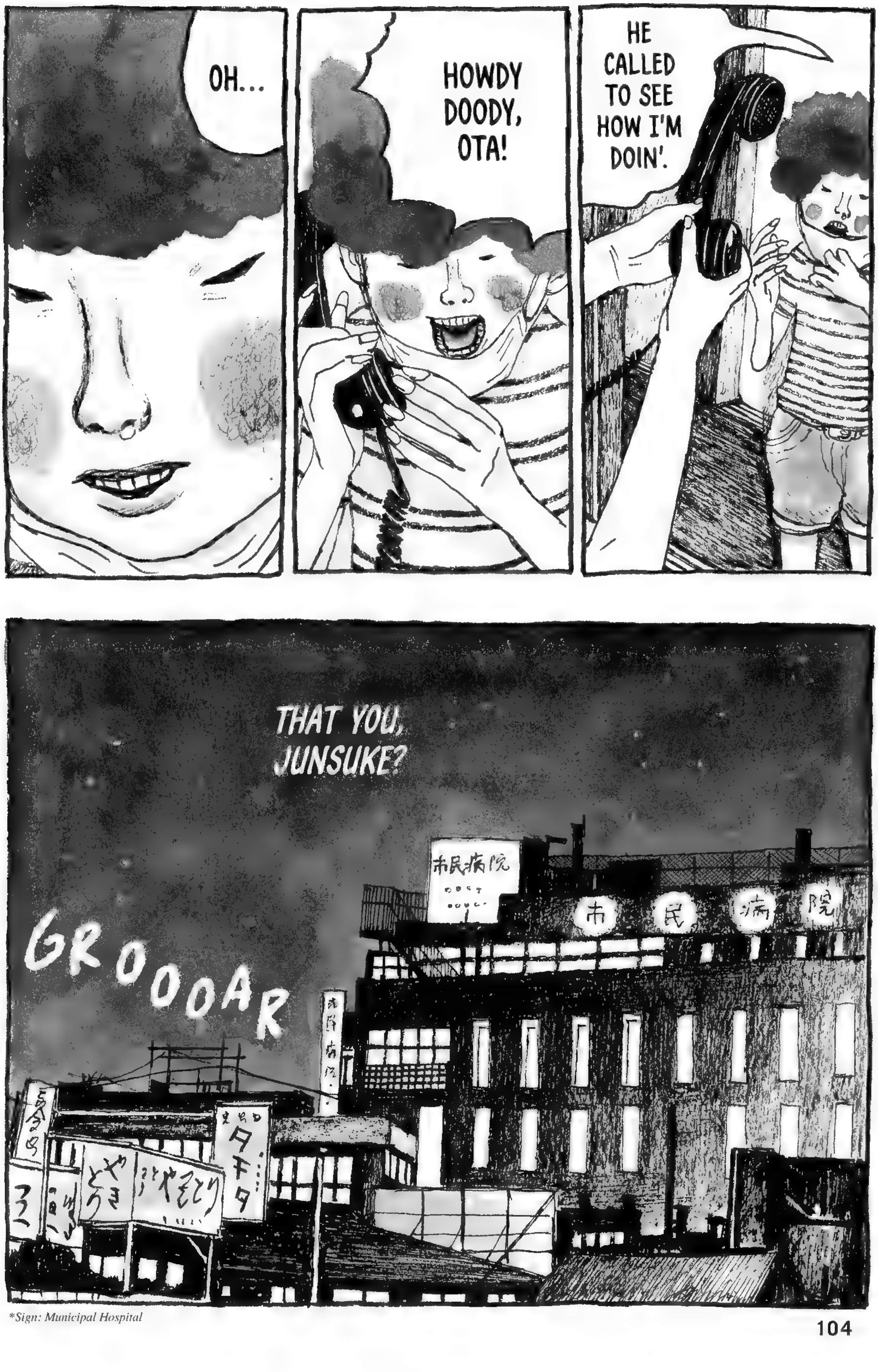



*"Monster," a late-70s hit single from female pop duo Pink Lady

*Hiroshi Wajima, famed sumo wrestler who later enjoyed a successful comeback as pro wrestler.



THIS CALLS FOR MORE THAN A WARNING.
I WOULDN'T CARE IF IT WAS JUST KENJI, BUT THE YOUNGER KIDS ARE IN THERE TOO.
THAT DAMN KENJI'S STASHING THESE IN THE SUNNY, HUH?
SO...
I DON'T WANNA DO A *QUARANTINE*...
BUT MISS MITSUKO, I GOT MY MASK ON, DON'T I?
JUN, C'MERE A SEC.
UH-OH.
YOU'VE GOT A PHONE CALL.
WHO IZZIT?
IT'S SOMEONE YOU KNOW *REAL WELL*.
GOTTA BE *OTA*.




*Sign: Municipal Hospital

MOMMY...
FEELING BETTER NOW?
THEY SAID YOU HAD A COLD?
VROOOOO
I THOUGH I WAS GONNA DIE THIS MORNING, BUT I'M BETTER NOW.
YEAH... MISS MITSUKO SAID MY FEVER WAS THIRTY-EIGHT AND A HALF DEGREES!

YOU OKAY?
...
HOW ARE YOU FEELIN', MOMMY?
YEAH...
MAKIO AND ME WENT TO THE HOS-PITAL.
I GOT A SHOT...
...BUT I DIDN'T CRY.
YEAH, EVERYONE'S ALWAYS ALL TOGETHER.
Hai-ya!
DMP
Cut it out, Haruo. You're gonna hurt yourself.
SQUEE
Can we watch cartoons?
WATCHIN' SUMO...
RAAH
No.
ZZZ

MONSTERS AND STUFF...
YEAH, HE'S ALWAYS DRAWING.
MMM
SHOSUKE'S SAME AS ALWAYS.
I'M GONNA GO VISIT YOU ON SUNDAY.
Will you two stop running around?
YAH HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA
I'M GONNA BRING YOU LOTSA CLOVERS.
HA HA HA HA

ME AND SHOSUKE ARE GONNA COME, OKAY?
GROOOAR

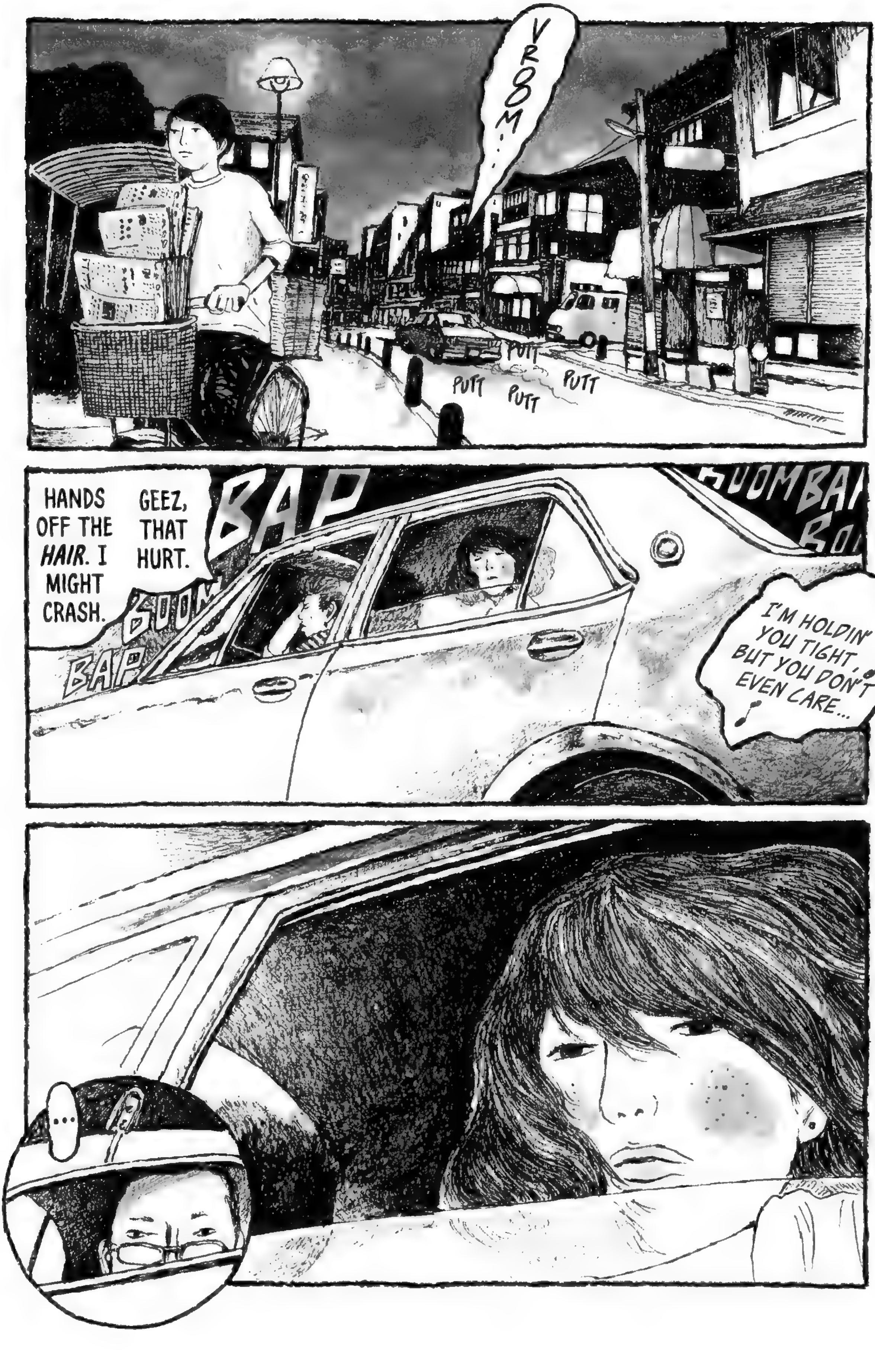
## CHAPTER 28

"Horny-Ken's in a good mood, don'tcha know."

"Prob'ly found some money."

*[illegible] 1978 hit single [illegible] Masanori Sera & Twist

ALL O' THAT HEAT...
BOOM
HM?
SO WHY DON'TCHA JUST GO YOURSELF?
BAP
I WANNA SEE THE SUN RISE OVER THE REFINERY.
OH YEAH, IT'S LITTLE KENNY, THE NEWSPAPER BOY.
HEY, AIN'T THAT KENJI?
BAP
BOOM
BOOM BOOM BOOM
HEY, DON'T ...
YO, KENJIIII!
DON'T YOU CALL 'IM OVER HERE, DUMBASS.
HEH HEH...
OWWW...


VROOM...
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
PUTT
BAP
BOOM BAP
BOOM
BOOM
BAP
HANDS OFF THE *HAIR*. I MIGHT CRASH.
GEEZ, THAT HURT.
I'M HOLDIN' YOU TIGHT, BUT YOU DON'T EVEN CARE...
...

GT-R
は
まぐろ

*The prefixes Aki-, Natsu-, Fuyu- and Haru- signifying the four seasons: Fall, Summer, Winter, Spring, respectively

THAT'S A GOOD ONE.
THUD
HAR
HAR
HAR
SHTP
BONG
BING
BONG
BING
GOT LOOKOUTS DOWN BY THE STATION. SAID THEY WERE HUNTING FOR ASAHI JR. HIGH KIDS.
YEAH, YEAH.
THE GUYS FROM WEST JR. HIGH BEEN MAKIN' A LOTTA NOISE THESE DAYS.
...

THERE WAS THAT THING THE OTHER DAY WHEN THOSE ASAHI KIDS GOT *PANTSED*...
...
SO WE WERE SAYIN'...
...MIGHT BE TIME TO ASK YOU TO PAY THEM A VISIT.
HEY.
GET LOST, *FLUNKEES.*
YOU'RE GETTIN' ON MY NERVES.
HEY...
...

Sign: Ms. Yoshikawa

WHAT'S SO COOL ABOUT IT?!
THEY'RE JUST MAKIN' FUN OF ME.
...
?
WHAT ?
S' NOTHIN' ...
...
KINDA SURPRISED YOU CAME TO SCHOOL, THAT'S ALL...
NOW YOU'RE JUST BEIN' STUPID.
I REBELLED AGAINST MY PARENTS, SO THEY GOT MAD AND MADE ME REPEAT THE YEAR.
THAT JUS' MADE ME REBEL MORE...

GUESS I LOOK PRETTY PATHETIC TO YOU KIDS WITH FAMILIES, RIGHT?
YEAH, YOU SURE DO.
HA HA ...
I GOT THAT FROM WATCHING *YOU*, Y'KNOW.
BUT I WAS THINKIN', *LIKE*, MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO QUIT THAT KINDA STUFF.
...
*TOTALLY PATHETIC.*
...
WELL, IT'S NOT ALL BAD. COME BACK TO SCHOOL, LEARN YOUR MULTIPLICATION, AND YOU MIGHT EVEN GRADUATE.
MULTIPLI-CATION ...
UGH ...
NO... I MEAN...
LIKE, UH, SEVEN'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN'T GET...
Mwa Ha Ha Ha

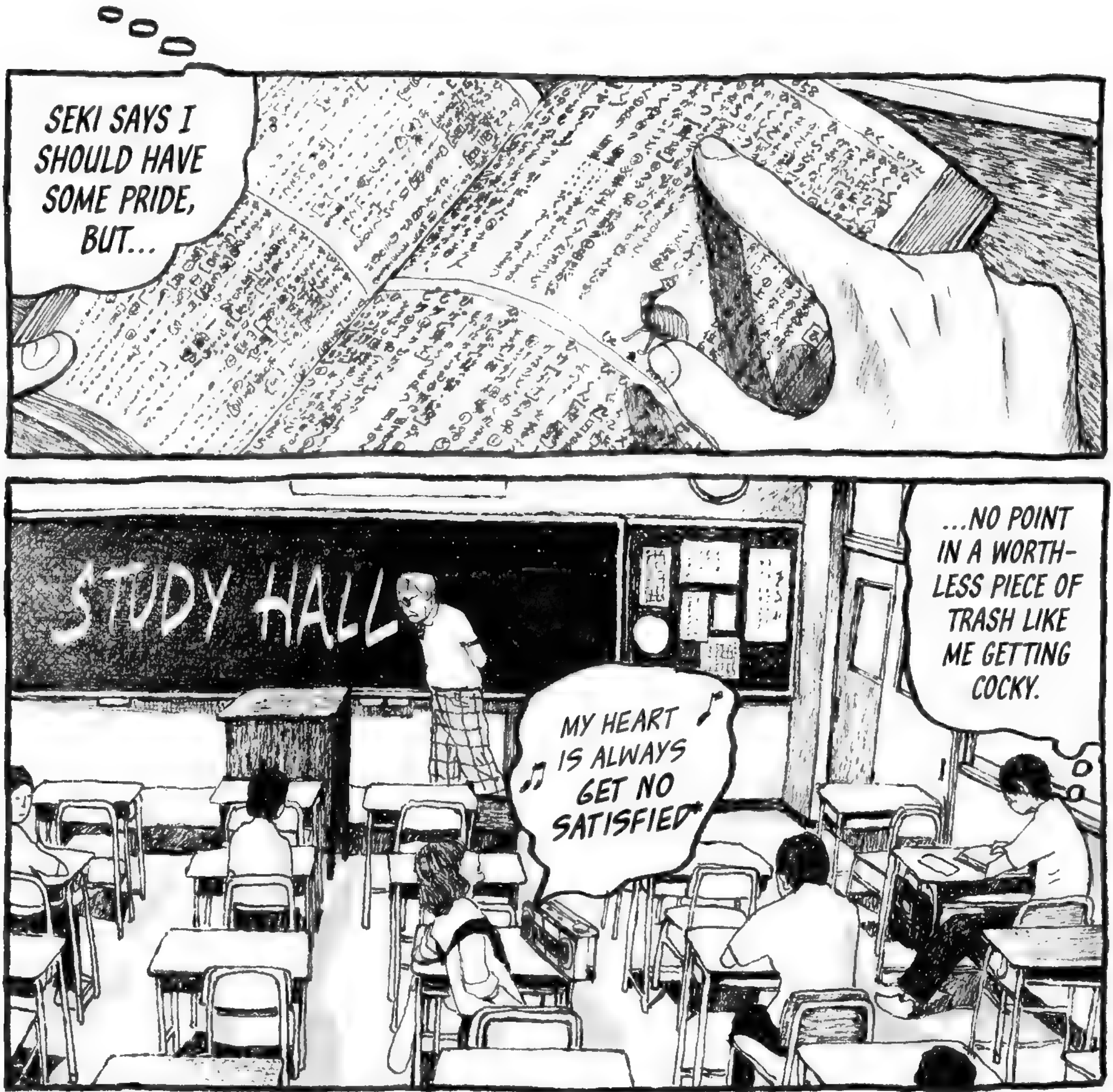
*Signs: Louis 13th, Bluebird, Harbor

HMM... BIG "G" AND LITTLE "G" ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT, Y'KNOW.
SO HOW 'BOUT I JUST WRITE EVERYTHING IN CAPITAL LETTERS, *PROFESSOR*?
"PRO-FES-SOR" ...
I DUNNO, MAYBE YOU CAN.
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE ASKING SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THIS STUFF BETTER.
I'M ALMOST AS BAD AS YOU...
*THAT'S* WHY I'M ASKING YOU!
ANYONE BETTER COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE DUMB.
WELL ...
I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY OF...
DING-A-DING

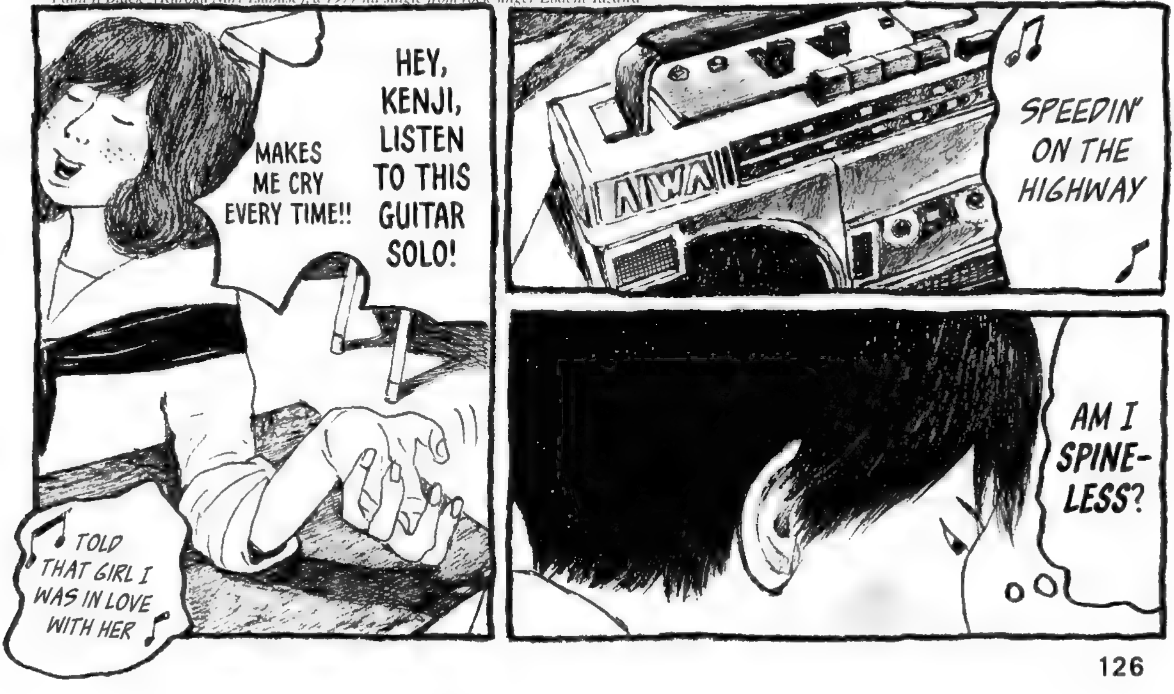
HEY, OLD-TIMER. ICED COFFEE AND A LEMON HIGHBALL.
WEL-COME.
WHAT'S SHAKIN'?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YEAH.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
WE'RE JUST HANGIN' OUT AND TRYIN' TO FINISH THIS STUFF, SO LEAVE US ALONE.
WOW, YOU'RE JUST LIKE A REAL STUDENT OR SOMETHIN'.
EINSTEIN AND THE STAR KID—JUST LOOK AT THE TWO LITTLE LOVEBIRDS STUDYIN'...
TSK.
HEH HEH ♡
WHOLE TOWN'S TALKIN' ABOUT YA.

STUPID TOWN GOSSIP.
I'M REALLY SORRY, KENJI, Y'KNOW.
PHOO.
DAMN SUFFOCA-TIN'...
IT'S GETTIN' SO A GUY CAN'T EVEN FART IN PRIVATE IN THIS GARBAGE DUMP OF A TOWN.
HEY, KENJI.
IS IT, "HEL-LOW HA-WAR YOO" ?
HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE?
NAW, DON'T WORRY. I'M JUST A FOSTER KID, AFTER ALL.
HAVE SOME PRIDE, WILLYA?
UH... SURE.
AKIRA.
PUT A LID ON ALL THAT I'M JUST A FOSTER KID WHINING.

SO WHO'S HAVING THE LEMON HIGHBALL?
THAT'S ME.
AND THE ICED COFFEE WOULD BE FOR...
ME, ME.
"AYE YAM KEN. WATT YOOR NAYM?"
HEH HEH
C'MON, GIVE IT BACK AL-READY!!
COOL DOWN, WILL YA?
HA HA HA.
MY DOG PROB'LY TALKS BETTER.
HA HA HA...
WHYA LAUGHING SO MUCH, KENJI?
DING-A-DING
WELCOME.
...
LET'S GO CRUISING IN THE GT.
WHY DON'TCHA JUST GO YOURSELF?
I'LL HAVE AN ICED COFFEE.
COMIN' RIGHT UP.
HEARD THERE'S A NEW PACHINKO PLACE IN YOKKAICHI.
WHADDAYA THINK, SEKI?
DON'T Y'ALL CARE 'BOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT PACHINKO?
"YESS AYE AM."
HA HA HA HA...
PHOO.




* "Paint It Black" (Kuroku Nuri Tsubuse), a 1977 hit single from rock singer Eikichi Yazawa



FROM MORNING TILL NIGHT, IT'S NIGHT 'N' DAY
IT IS NOT THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.
HARUNA, COULD YOU PLEASE NOT PLAY MUSIC IN THE CLASSROOM?
WHAT?! BUT THIS IS EI-CHAN!
IT'S OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM!
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE CLASS...
PAINT IT BLAAACK
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
WHERE YOU GOIN'?
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO SEE.
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE

HEY.

MEOW

KENJI–!! HEY, KENJI!!
UH...
YEAH?

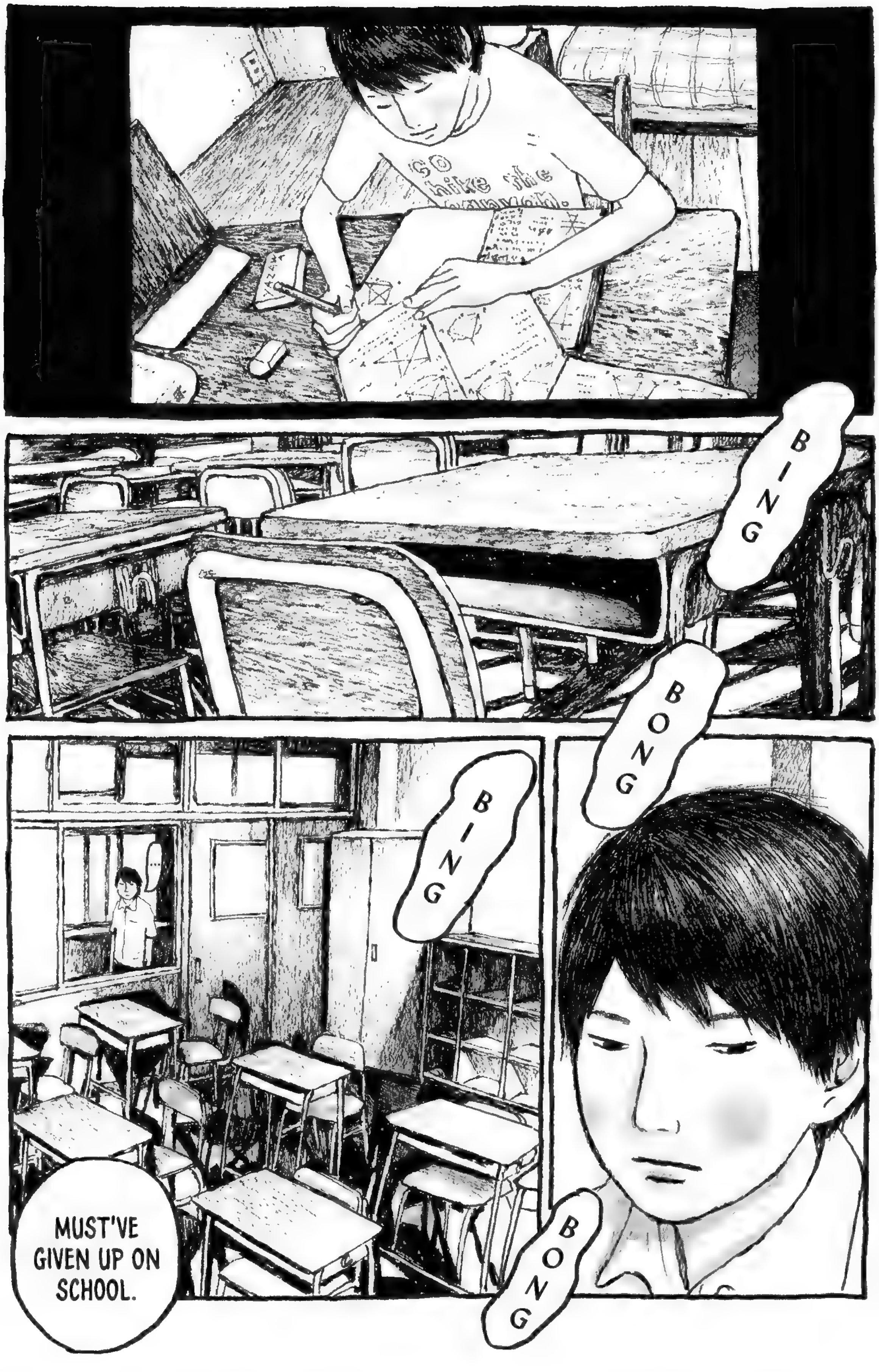
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
?
C'MERE, *KENJI*. I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD. LOOK...
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW

DON'TCHA THINK HE LOOKS LIKE YOU?!
LOOK AT HIS EYES...
OH...
PRRR
I NAMED HIM KENJI, Y'KNOW, AND I FEED HIM NOW AND THEN.
GUESS SO.
HA HA HA.
IT'S A *SHE*, ISN'T IT?
KRK
WELL... I GUESS IT DON'T MATTER.
...
SHE WAS GETTING SO FAT I THOUGHT I WAS FEEDING HER TOO MUCH, BUT I GUESS SHE WAS PREGNANT.

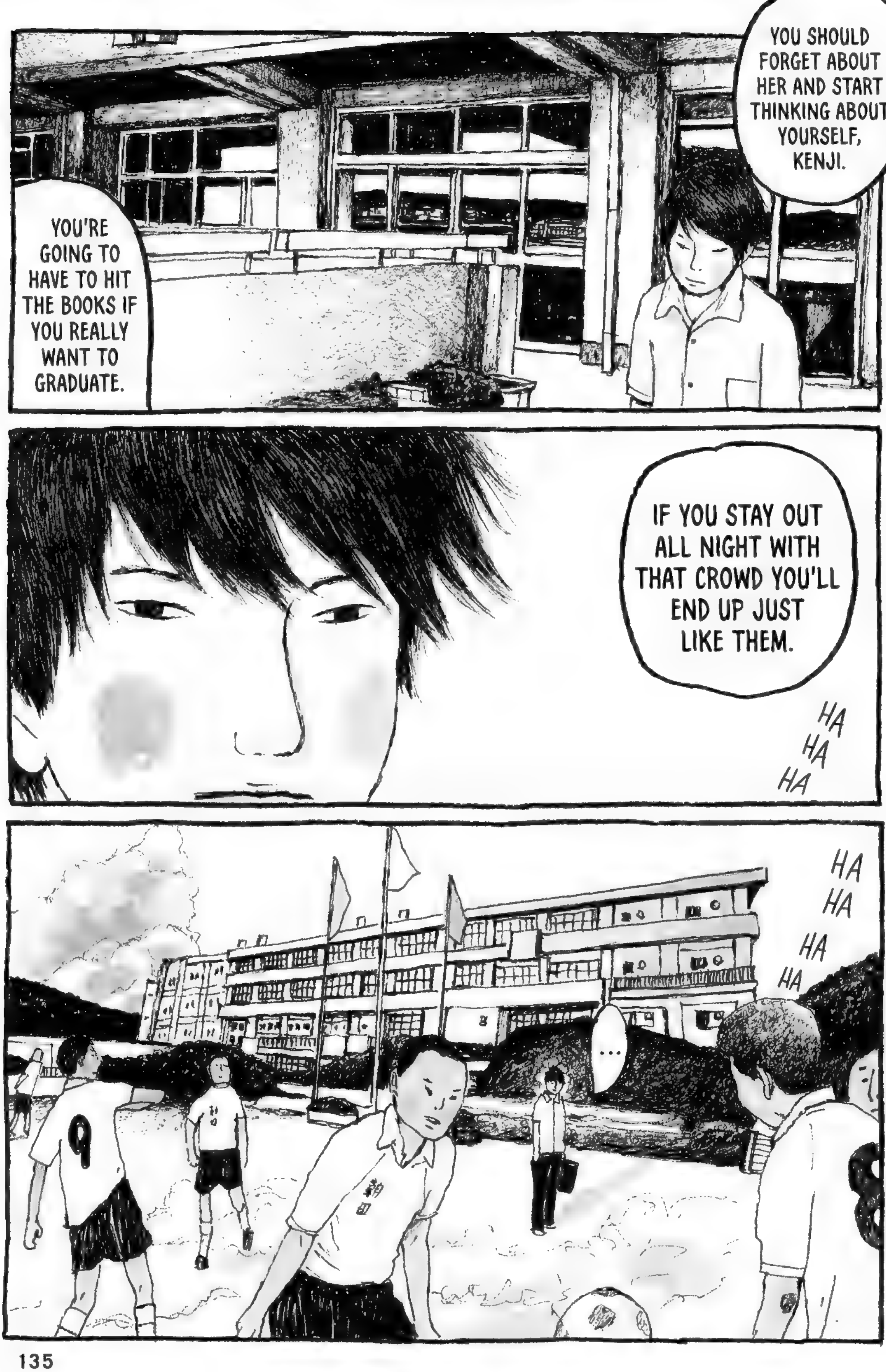
Signs: Don't Feed the Cats. FEEDING PROHIBITED!!

CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
I WISH WE COULD GO THERE. ME, YOU, ALL THE GUYS... ALL OF US.
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
C'MON... EAT UP...
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
CHEET
KENJI, CAN YOU TURN IT DOWN A LITTLE?
CHEET
CHEET

DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD THIS TAPE.
MAN, I'M SICK OF THE WORLD
OH, SORRY, SIS. TOO LOUD?
I GOT IT FROM A GUY AT SCHOOL! YEAH!
UH, NO, IT'S, UH...
WHY'S HE TALKIN' SO LOUD...
MY HEART IS ALWAYS GET NO SATISFIED
PASTEL
SICK OF THE RICH GUYS
..?
BING
O-K! SANK YOO!
DON'T STAY UP TOO LATE, Y'HEAR ...
PAINT IT BLAAACK


BING
BONG
BING
BONG
MUST'VE GIVEN UP ON SCHOOL.

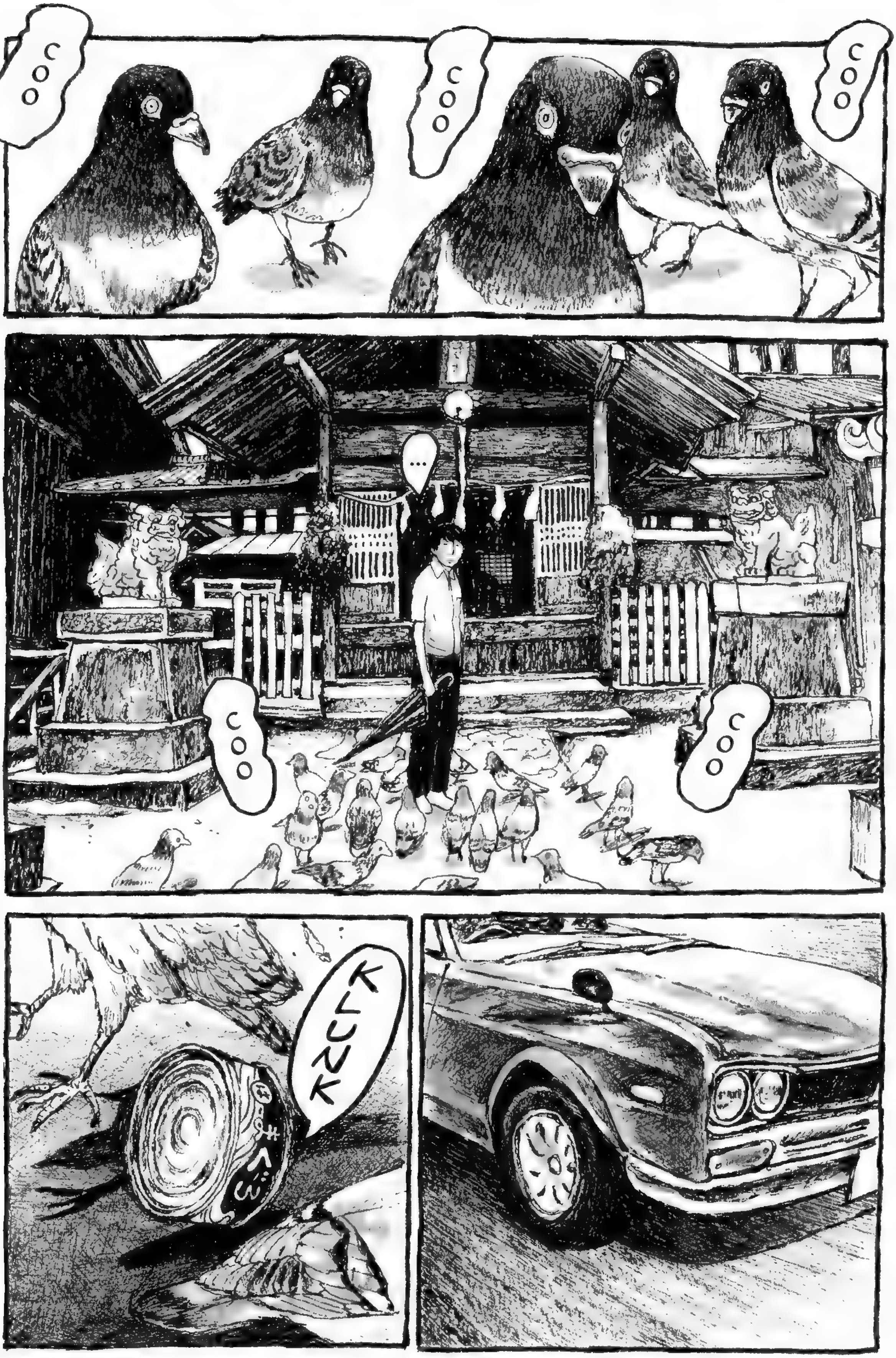
NO WAY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HER...
YOU KNOW HER. KEEPING BAD COMPANY NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, NEVER COMING HOME...
THE OTHER DAY HER PARENTS CALLED AND SAID THEY WERE KEEPING HER OUT OF SCHOOL FOR A WHILE...
SAID THEY'D BEEN HOPING SHE COULD GRADUATE IN THE SPRING...
THEY WERE RIGHT.
WELL... I GUESS THEY DECIDED THERE WAS NO POINT IN HER CONTINUING.


YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT HER AND START THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF, KENJI.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO HIT THE BOOKS IF YOU REALLY WANT TO GRADUATE.
IF YOU STAY OUT ALL NIGHT WITH THAT CROWD YOU'LL END UP JUST LIKE THEM.
HA HA HA
HA HA
HA HA
...

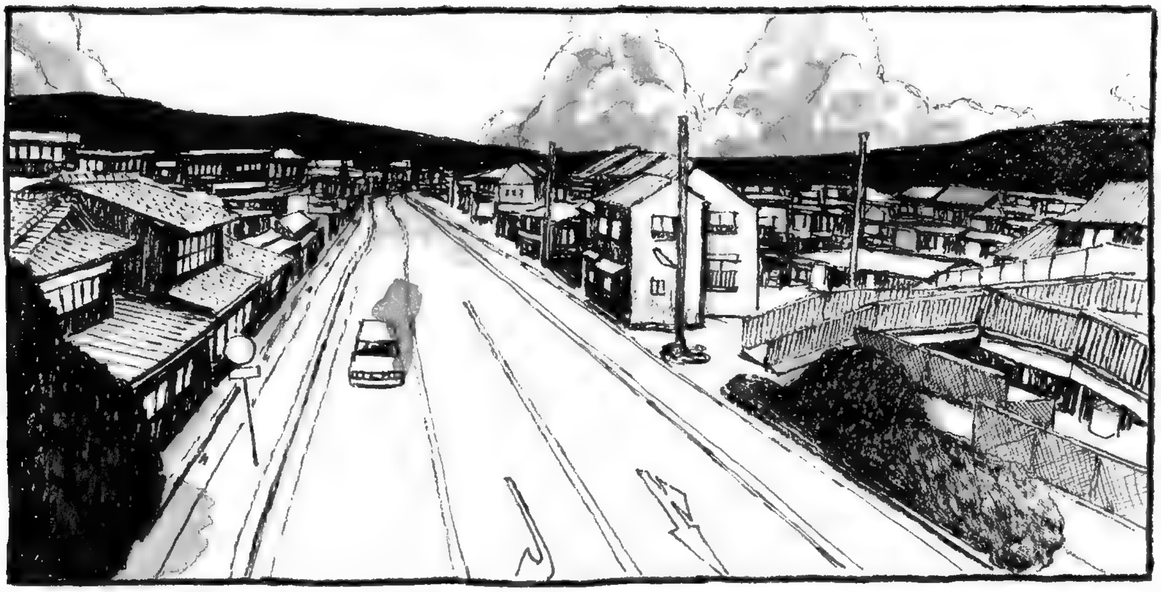
FWSH
H
H
WHAT? ANOTHER COLLECTION?
SO THIS TIME YOU'RE COLLECTING FOR SOME-ONE WHO'S GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME?
YEAH, YEAH, JUST FORK IT UP ALREADY...
A THOU-SAND YEN.
Y'KNOW, I'M NOT DELIVERING NEWS-PAPERS TO BUY BEER FOR OLD MEMBERS.
YEAH, BUT THIS COLLECTION IS FOR THE *BOSS*.
?!
GOT KNOCKED UP OR LEAVIN' TOWN OR SOMETHIN', SO SHE NEEDS THE MONEY.
C'MON, LET'S GET THE NEXT ONE.

WHO'S *EVERY-ONE*?
I SAID I DON'T KNOW!!
THAT'S WHAT EVERY-ONE'S SAYIN'.
DUNNO.
KNOCKED UP? LEAVIN' TOWN? *WHICH*?
GO ASK HER YOUR-SELF!!
YOU'D KNOW BETTER THAN US ANYWAY!
FWSHH
GIVE US A THOUSAND YEN.

HEEEY, KENJI!
SHUKKA SHUKKA
WHERE'D YOU GO, KENJI...?
BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD.
...
SWSH
SWSH
IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR THE CATS, THEY AIN'T HERE NO MORE.
SWSH
...
SOMEONE CAME AND SCOOPED 'EM UP.


COO
COO
COO
...
COO
COO
KLUNK

BAH!!



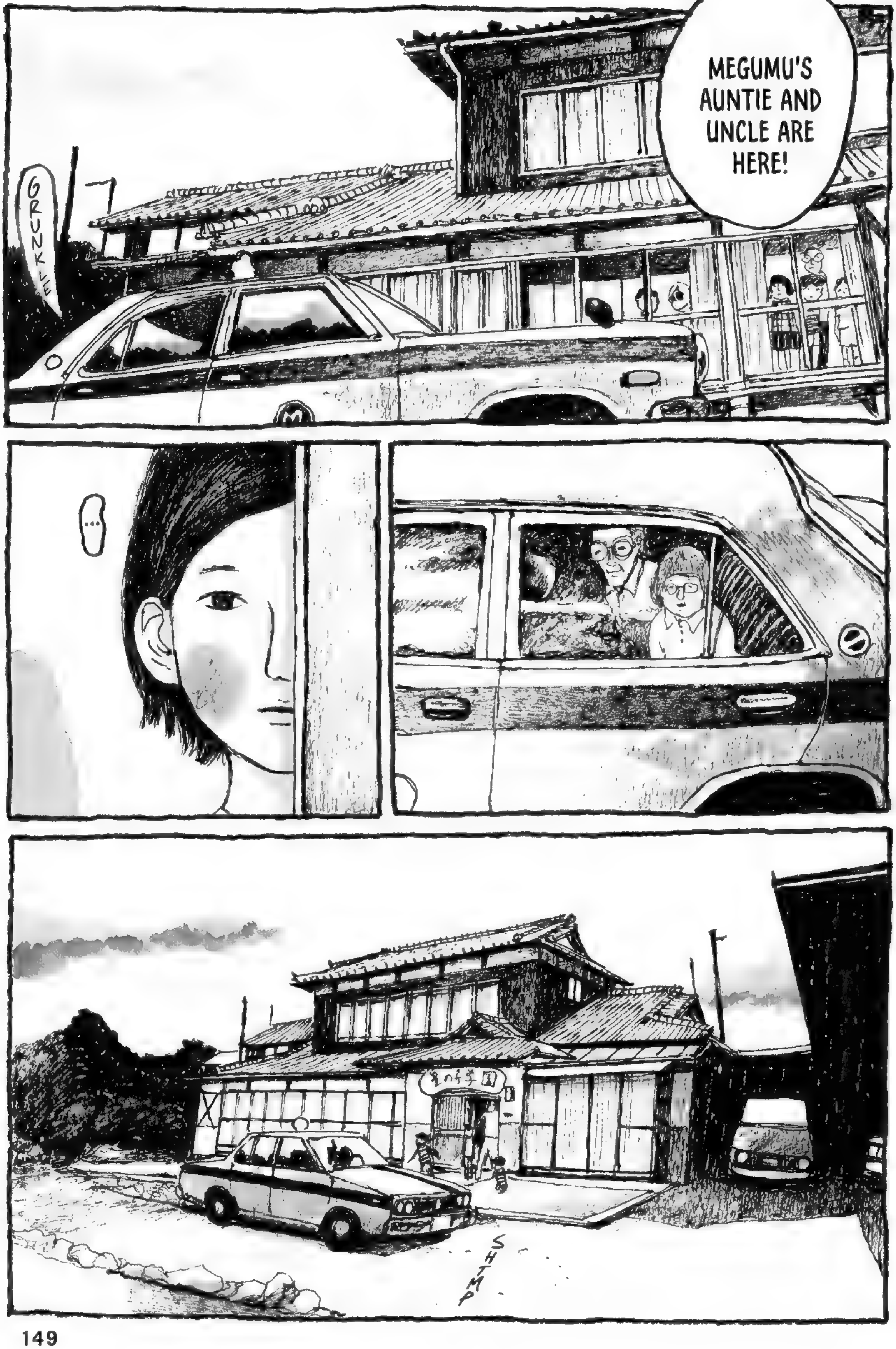
# CHAPTER 29

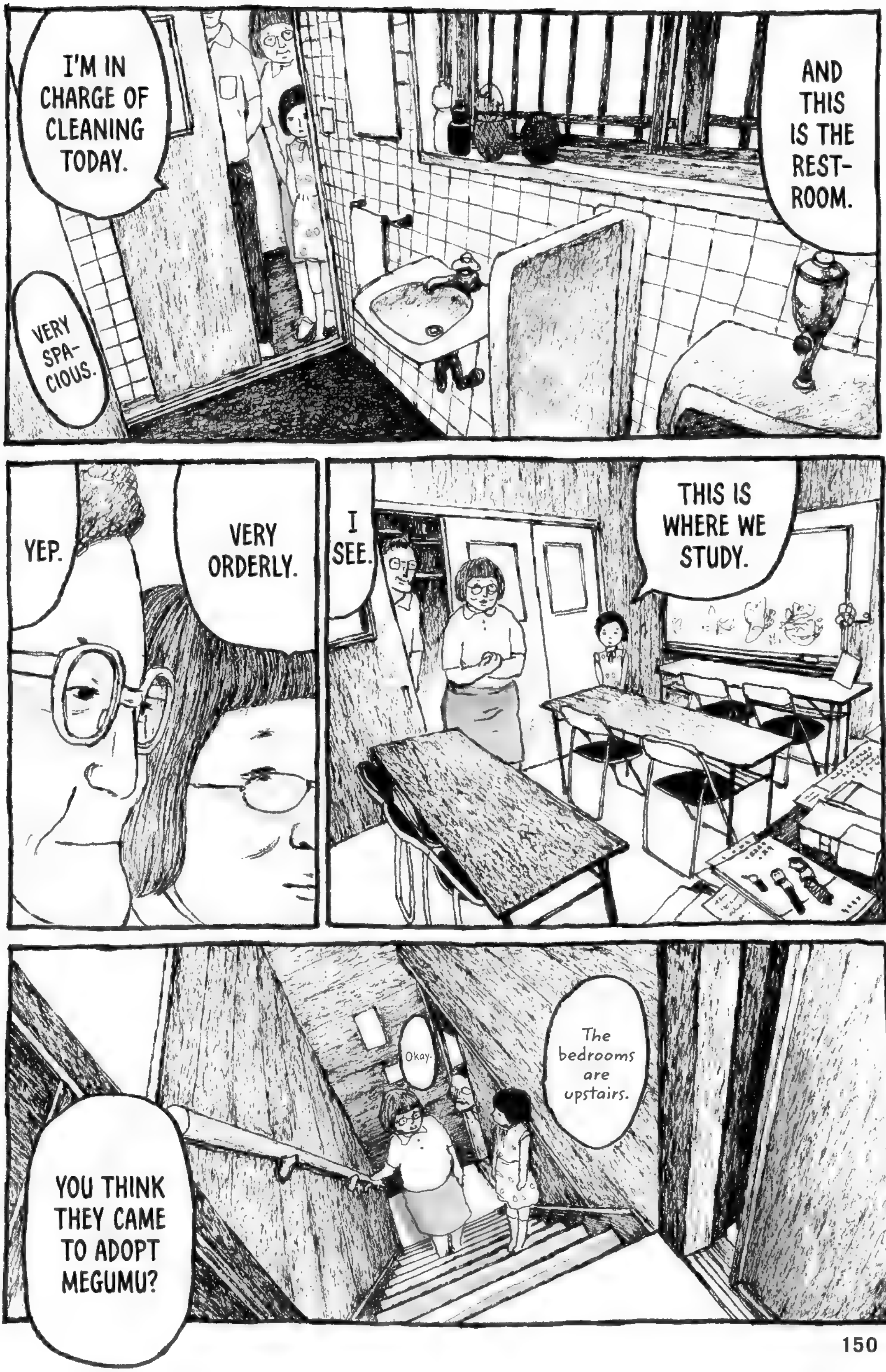
"You think a rainbow's hot if you touch it?"

"The blue part's gotta be cold."

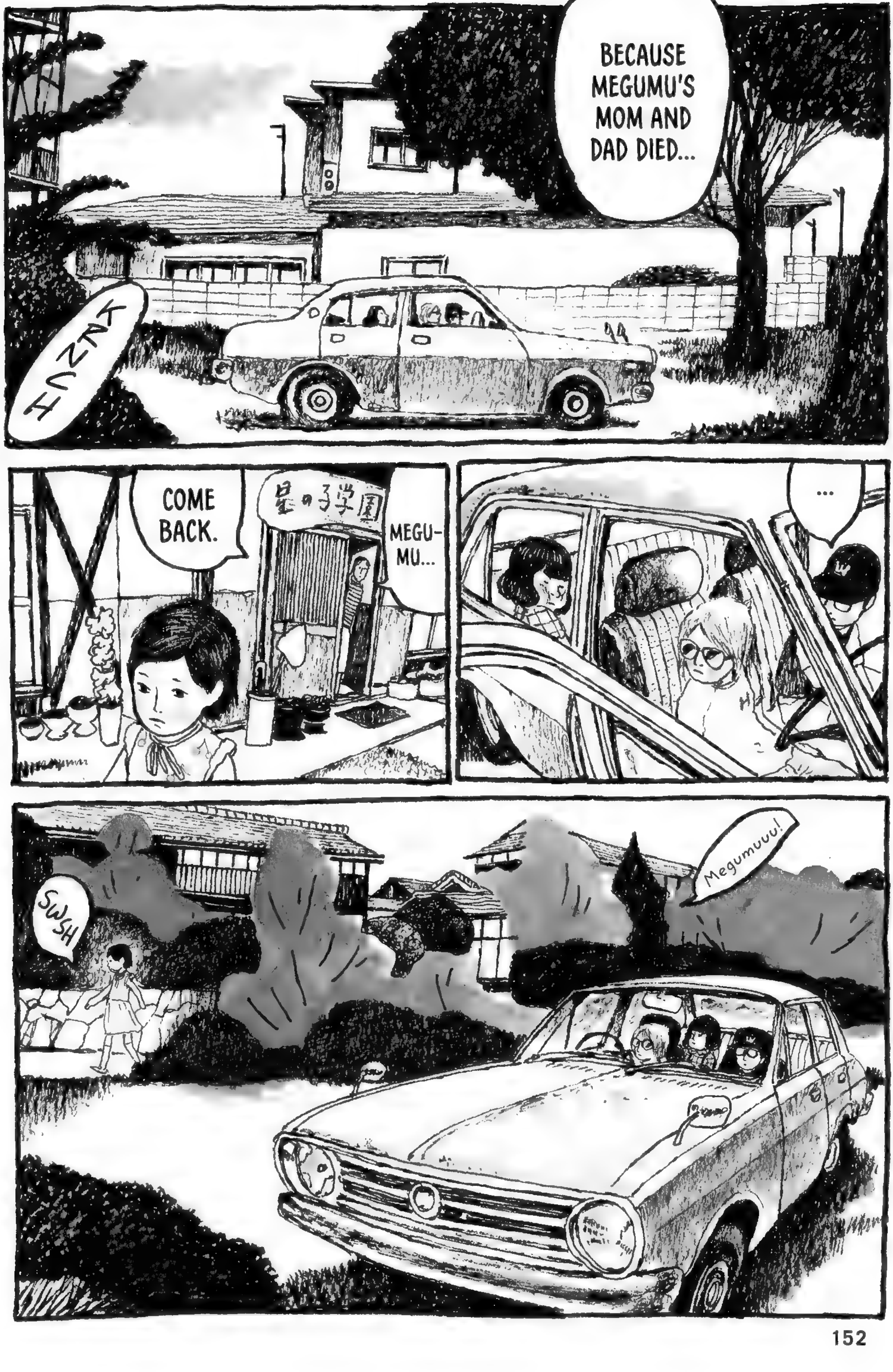
*WHAT* WERE YOU DOING? YOU KNOW WE'RE IN A HURRY.
I DIDN'T THINK KURO WAS GONNA SCRATCH ME LIKE THAT.
!
LOOK, YOU'RE COVERED IN KURO'S HAIR.
Hee Hee...
GETTIN' ALL DECKED OUT...
MEGUMU'S PREEETTY!

*Affectionate name for Momoe Yamaguchi, singer and idol popular in '70s Japan


MEGUMU'S AUNTIE AND UNCLE ARE HERE!
GRUNKLE
...
SHTMP

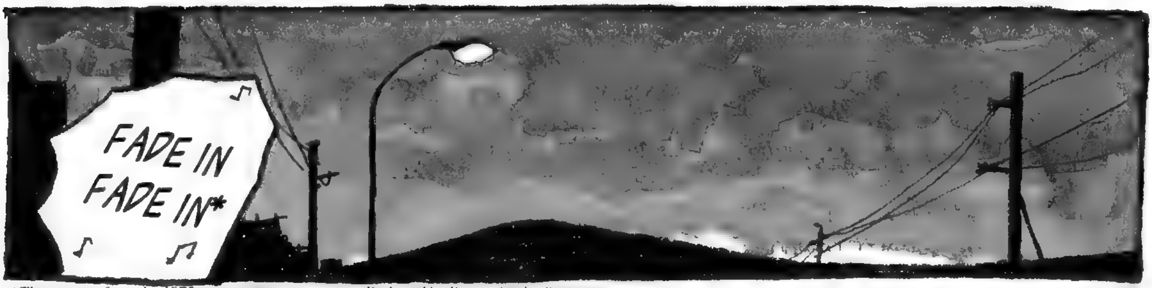

I'M IN CHARGE OF CLEANING TODAY.
AND THIS IS THE REST-ROOM.
VERY SPA-CIOUS.
YEP.
VERY ORDERLY.
I SEE.
THIS IS WHERE WE STUDY.
Okay.
The bedrooms are upstairs.
YOU THINK THEY CAME TO ADOPT MEGUMU?

UGH... NO WAY.
YOU THINK?
NOT SURE.
BUT I HEARD MR. ADACHI AND MISS MITSUKO SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YEAH, BUT YOU THINK SHE'S REALLY GONNA GO SOME-WHERE AS FAR AWAY AS *HAKO-DATE*?
SEEMED LIKE SHE NEVER MET 'EM BEFORE!
WHERE'S HAKODATE?
NEAR TOKYO?
HOK-KAIDO.
DUMMY.
THAT'S WHERE SALMON SPAWN!
What're you talking about?
BUT MAYBE IT'S BETTER FOR MEGUMU THIS WAY.

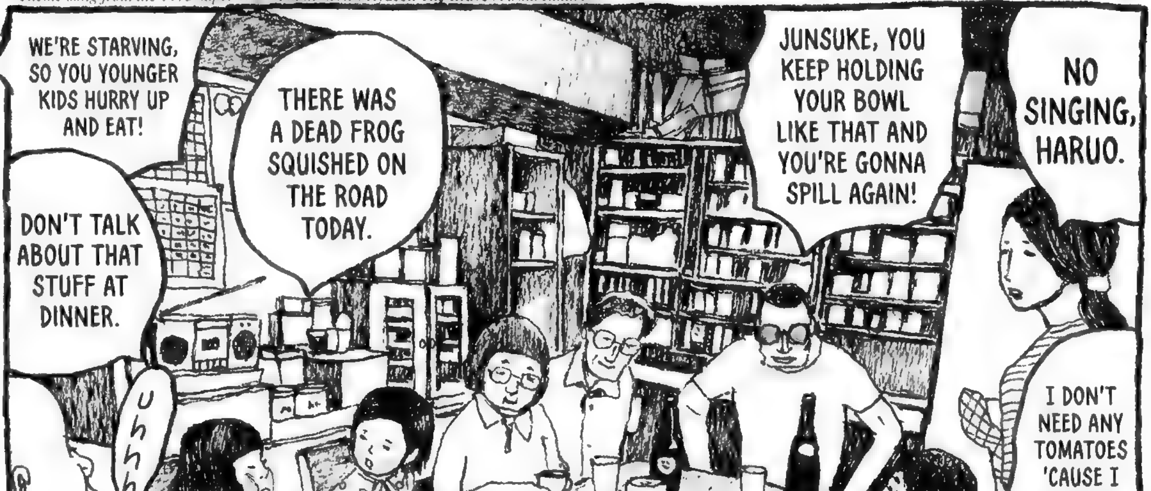

BECAUSE MEGUMU'S MOM AND DAD DIED...
KRNCH
COME BACK.
星の子学園
MEGU-MU...
...
Megumuuu!
SWSH

...
WHERE YA GOIN'?
MUMU.
TO RIE'S HOUSE!!
DEAR ME, I'M SO SORRY...
SHE SAID SHE'D BE A GOOD GIRL AND STAY AT THE HOUSE TODAY.
SHE ACTUALLY PROMISED. THAT GIRL...
OH, WELL.
MEGUMU SHOULD GO ABOUT HER DAY AS SHE LIKES.

WELL, RELAX AND WAIT HERE IN THE MEAN-TIME.
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM THE TRIP.
THE SUMMER HEAT DOWN IN THESE PARTS MUST BE UNBEAR-ABLE FOR YOU FOLKS.
WELL, YES...
BUT I ENJOYED MANY SUMMERS HERE WHEN I WAS YOUNG.
AH, AT MEGUMU'S MOTHER'S FAMILY HOUSE ...
YES ...
WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL ...
...COUSIN AYUMI WAS STILL JUST CRAWLING.
CHEE CHEE CHEE CHEE
CHEE CHEE
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE AYUMI'S DAUGHTER IS ALREADY SO GROWN UP.




*Theme song from the 1975 super [illegible] series Rydeen The Brave (Yusha Raideen)



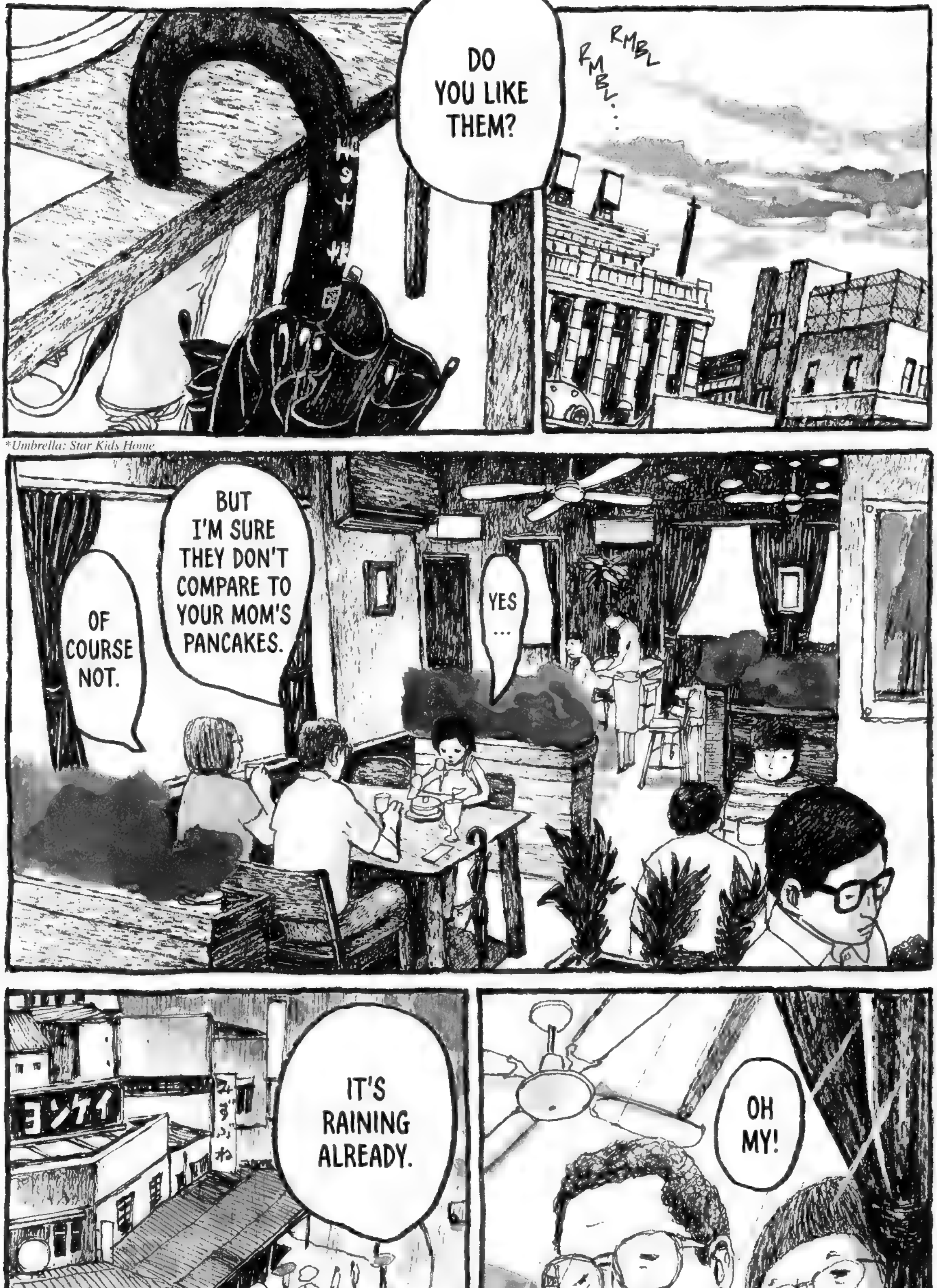
IT'S SO LIVELY AND FUN HERE!
SINCE OUR KIDS LEFT HOME, WE'VE BEEN HAVING DINNER ALONE, JUST THE TWO OF US...
IT'S NOTH-ING.
Bwa ha ha... Suuuper sorry!
SORRY FOR ALL THE RACKET...
SHUT UP AND EAT IT, YA SPOILED BRAT!!
THIS DAIKON IS TOO BIG FOR ME TO EAT.
KOJI, THAT'S *MY* FRITTER.
HARUO.
THIS PLACE IS *HELL*! WHAT'S SO *FUN* ABOUT IT?!
UM...
TEE HEE HEE... WHAT KIND OF FOOD DO YOU LIKE BEST, MEGUMU?

I LIKE MY MOM'S PANCAKES!
IS THAT SO.
ME, MOM AND DAD.
ON SUNDAY MORNINGS WE HAD THEM WITH TEA.
THEY'RE SO FLUFFY AND SMELL LIKE BUTTER.
...
THAT'S ENOUGH.
MEGU-MU.
AND HAMBURGERS TOO! MY MOM'S WERE SO GOOD. AND, UM, ALSO PUDDING ...
AND I LIKE OMELETS TOO...

COME ON DOWN NOW, MEGUMU.
YOU SAID YOU'D SLEEP IN THE YAMAMURAS' ROOM. THEY CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST FOR YOU.
I'M STAYIN' HERE.
DON'T WANNA ...
ALREADY SLEEPY...
G'NIGHT.
...
NNN.
OH, MEGUMU, OF ALL THE...
...

I DON'T LIKE THESE CLOTHES.
I'M NOT GOIN' IF I GOTTA WEAR THESE.
AGAIN WITH THAT?
YOU PROMISED YOU'D BEHAVE YOURSELF WITH THE YAMA-MURAS.
I WANNA WEAR MY NORMAL CLOTHES.
GOO
WHEEE!
WHEEE--
OH, WELL ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, REALLY, MISS MITSUKO.
WEAR WHATEVER YOU WANT, MEGUMU.
WHY DYA HAVE TO SAY THAT TODAY, MEGUMU?
!

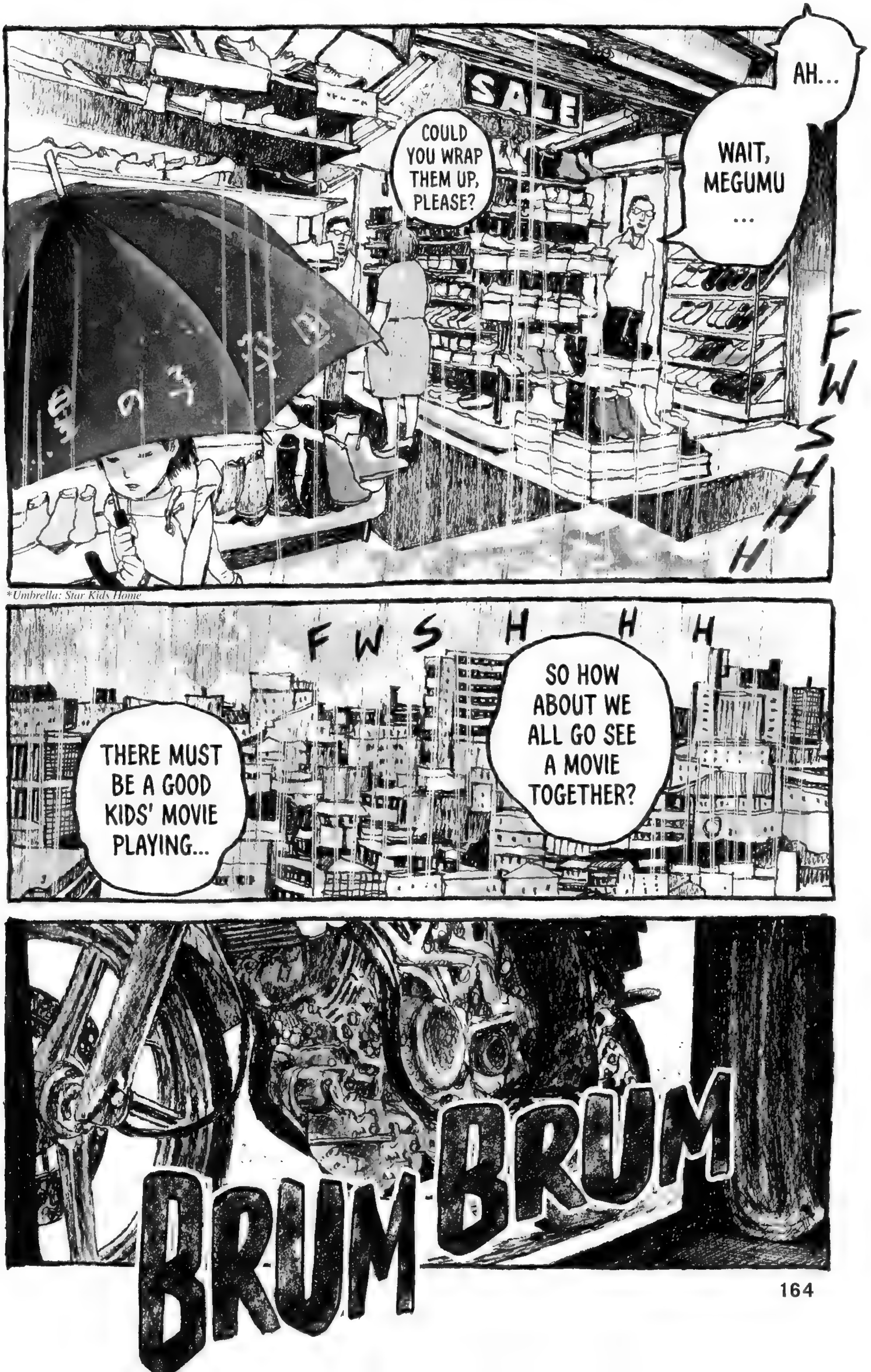
HURRY ALONG NOW, MEGUMU.
YOU'RE TAKING THE BUS WITH THEM.
Ooh GOO
!
IT'S NO TROUBLE.
TEE HEE HEE.
I'M SORRY, SOME-TIMES SHE'S A BIT DITZY.
OH DEAR, LOOK AT THOSE THUNDER-CLOUDS.
RMBL
RMBL



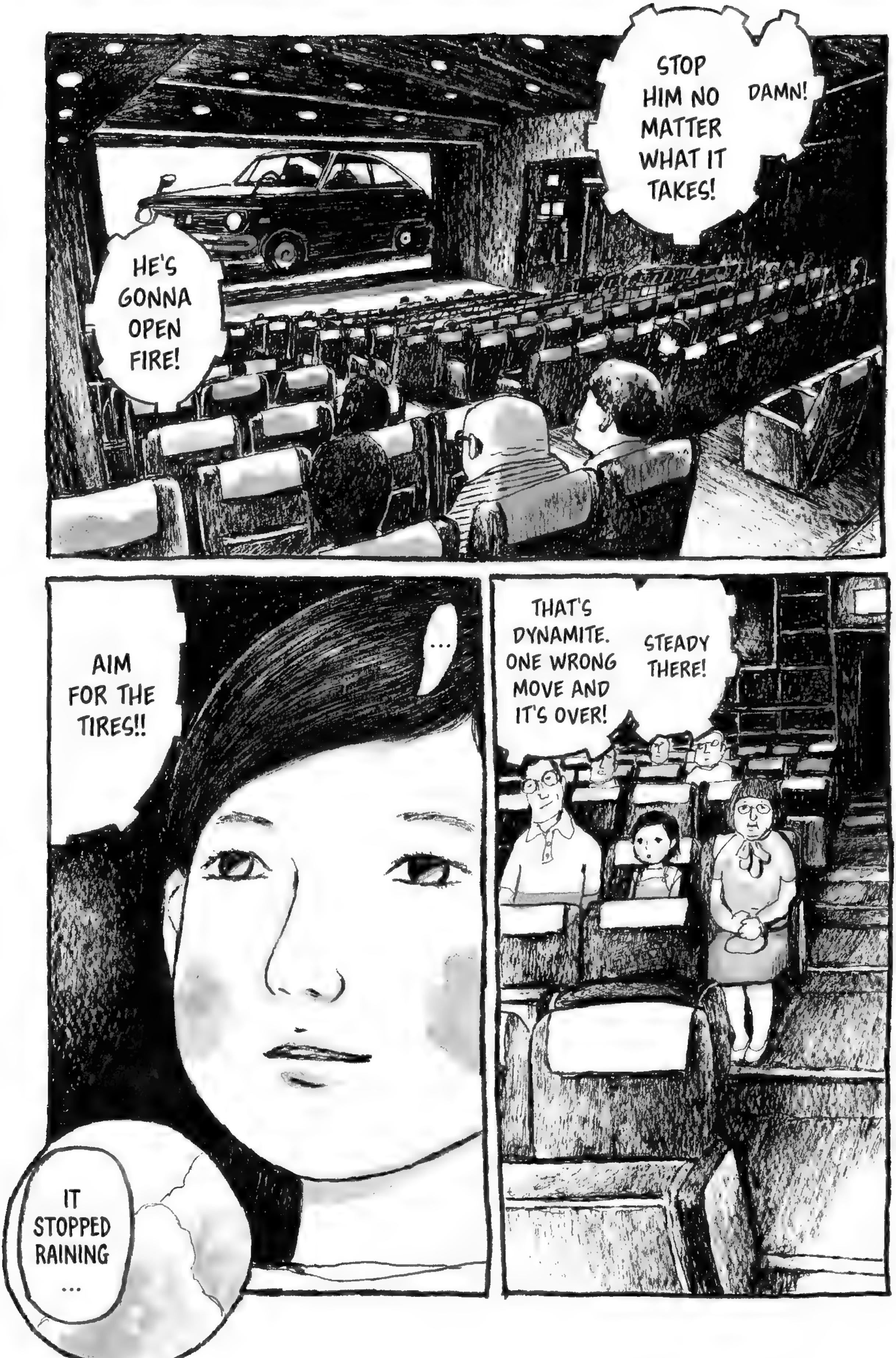

*Umbrella: Star Kids Home

WHAT A LOVELY WRIST-WATCH.
WELL THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK.
UM, I'M SORRY... TODAY AT FOUR O'CLOCK I HAVE TO...
I HAVE TO GO TO RIE'S HOUSE... I PROMISED HER...
DID YOUR MOM BUY IT FOR YOU?
MY ...
... DAD.
UMM... I'M... I CAN'T EAT ANY MORE...
OH ...
WELL, YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE YOURSELF.
I KNOW!
AUNTIE HAS A GOOD IDEA!
CLAP
FWSSHHHHH
BUT THIS IS REALLY A SHAME ...
CAN'T EVEN GO OUT-SIDE FOR A WALK.
...
...

THESE ARE 20 CM.
THEY LOOK VERY NICE ON YOU, MEGUMU. A PERFECT FIT.
...
THAT SIZE IS A GOOD FIT.
I...
I CAN'T TAKE THESE.
PERHAPS YOU LIKE THE PINK ONES BETTER?
...
IT'S GONNA STOP RAINING SOON ANYWAY.
IT'S NOT RIGHT IF I GET PRESENTS FROM OUTSIDERS.




*Umbrella: Star Kids Home


STOP HIM NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
DAMN!
HE'S GONNA OPEN FIRE!
AIM FOR THE TIRES!!
...
THAT'S DYNAMITE. ONE WRONG MOVE AND IT'S OVER!
STEADY THERE!
IT STOPPED RAINING ...

むさし
I THINK THAT MOVIE WAS A LITTLE OVER YOUR HEAD.
WE'RE SORRY ABOUT THAT. REALLY.
NO... IT'S OKAY.
SHALL WE GO INTO A COFFEE SHOP AND REST A BIT?
OH...
I HAFTA GO HOME.
I CAN GO BY MYSELF.
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE COFFEE SHOP AND RELAX.
NO, WE'LL GO BACK WITH YOU.
WOULD YOU SHOW US THE WAY, MEGUMU?

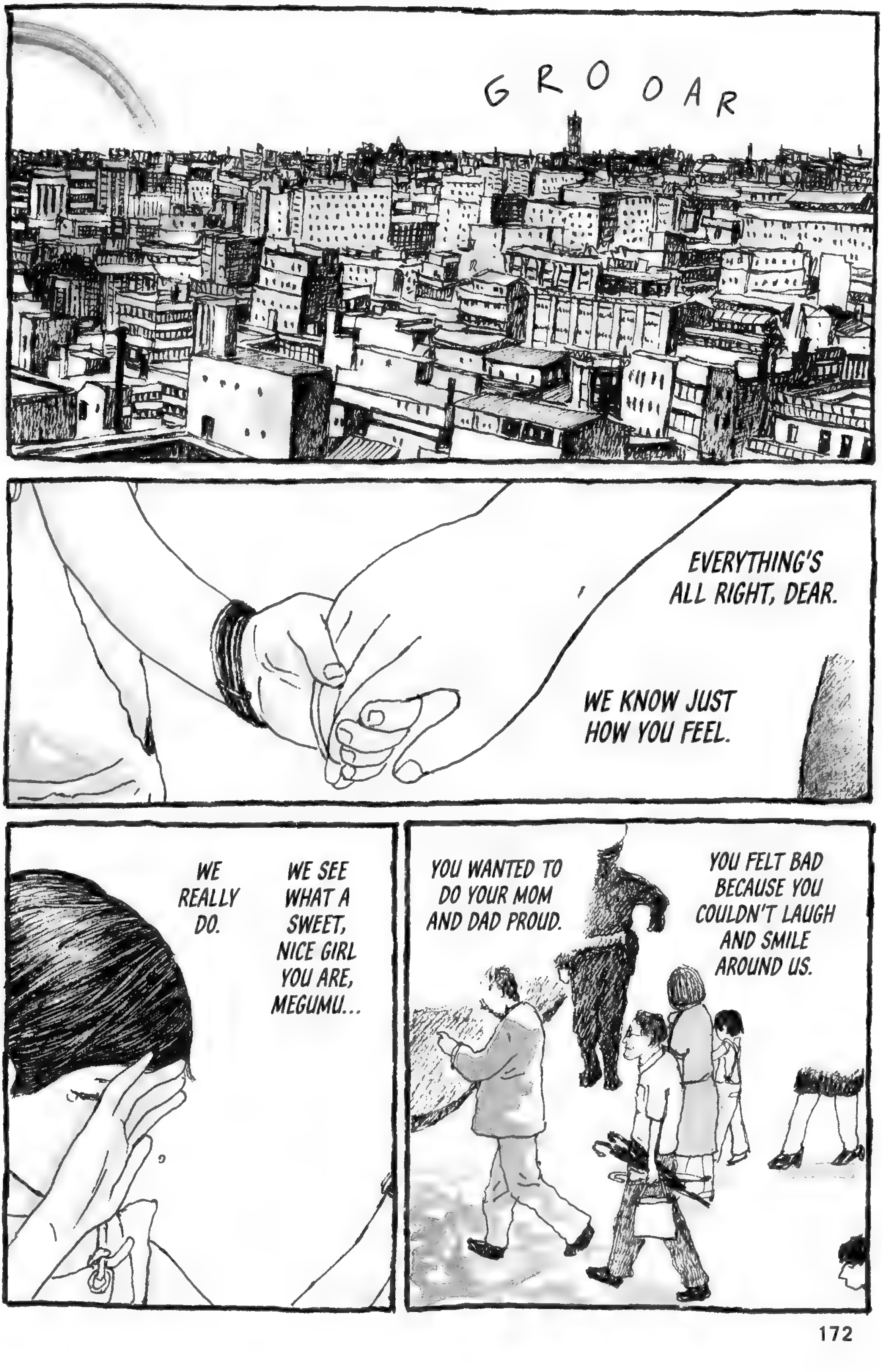
GROOAR
YOU SURE YOU KNOW THE WAY?
OH...
HA HA.
YOU WERE SO CUTE. ONLY ABOUT THIS BIG!
IT WAS IN THE WAY SO I STUCK IT UNDER THE SEAT.
WHEN YOU WERE STILL A BABY, YOU CAME WITH YOUR PARENTS TO HAKODATE.
DARN.
I LEFT THE UMBRELLA IN THE MOVIE THEATER!
OH WELL, FORGET IT. IT WAS AN OLD UMBRELLA ANYWAY.
YES, IT WAS.
YOU KNOW, I THINK IT WAS AROUND THE SAME TIME OF YEAR AS NOW.
MISS MITSUKO'S GONNA GET MAD AT ME.
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER.
RIGHT? HA HA HA.
TEE HEE HEE. WELL, OF COURSE.
SHE WAS JUST A BABY, AFTER ALL.
UM, NO. I DON'T.

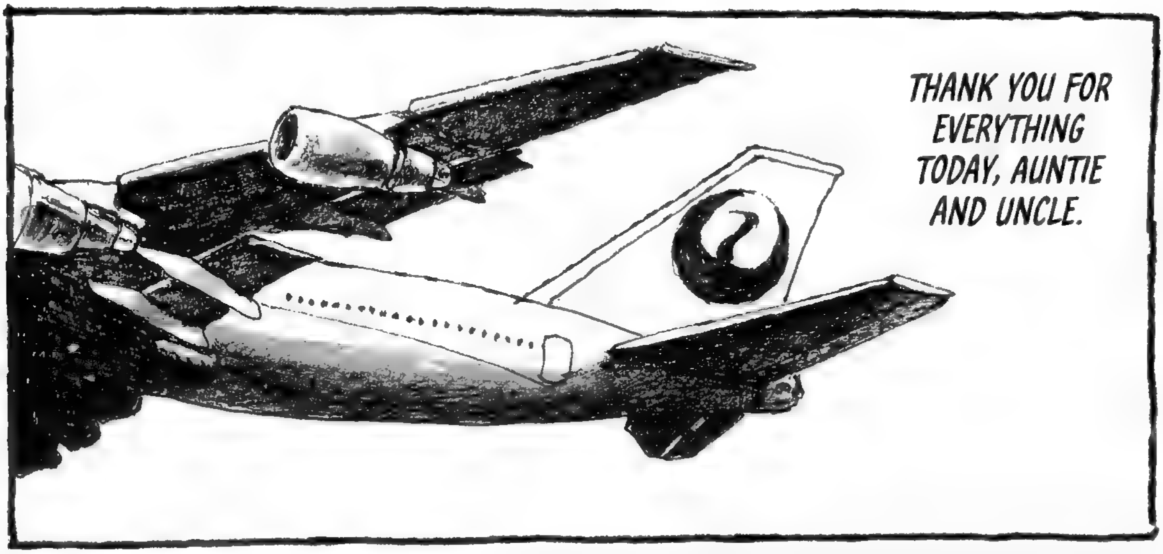
GROOOAR
OH MY, YES.
MEGUMU, DIDN'T YOU SAY. HAVE AN UMBRELLA?
HMM?
I... YES... UM...
AND THE NEXT SHOW ALREADY STARTED...
MUST BE AT THE MOVIE THEATER.
I'LL GO GET IT!
BUT THAT UMBRELLA... WAS ALREADY FALLING APART...
GROOAR
BOOOOM
DON'T MOVE OR I'LL SHOOT!
OH...
THERE HE IS.

EXCUSE ME, LEFT MY UMBRELLA 'ROUND HERE.
SO SORRY.
FREEZE!!
EEK!
FORGOT MY UMBRELLA ...
THERE, IN THE WARE-HOUSE!
PARDON ME...
ARRRGH!
BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM !!
OUTTA THE WAY, MAN. CAN'T SEE A THING!
SO SORRY.

BOOOM
SORRY, JUST LOOKING FOR MY UMBRELLA ...
...
REALLY SORRY...
HUH?
OH, C'MON ...
ARRRGH! BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
OH...
THERE IT IS!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE! RUN!
I GOT IT, MEGUMU !!
FOUND YOUR UM-BRELLA!
WAAAH!
?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
MEGUMU?
BLAM BLAM BLAM
AAAAAAAAAH!
WAAAAAH!!
BRAT TAT TAT TAT
BOOOM
NOOOO!
SEE? THE UMBRELLA WAS THERE, SO NO PROBLEM.
HEY THERE, MEGUMU. IT'S OKAY, LOOK...
BRAT TAT TAT TAT


GROOAR
EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT, DEAR.
WE KNOW JUST HOW YOU FEEL.
WE REALLY DO.
WE SEE WHAT A SWEET, NICE GIRL YOU ARE, MEGUMU...
YOU WANTED TO DO YOUR MOM AND DAD PROUD.
YOU FELT BAD BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T LAUGH AND SMILE AROUND US.



*Sign: Yokkaichi

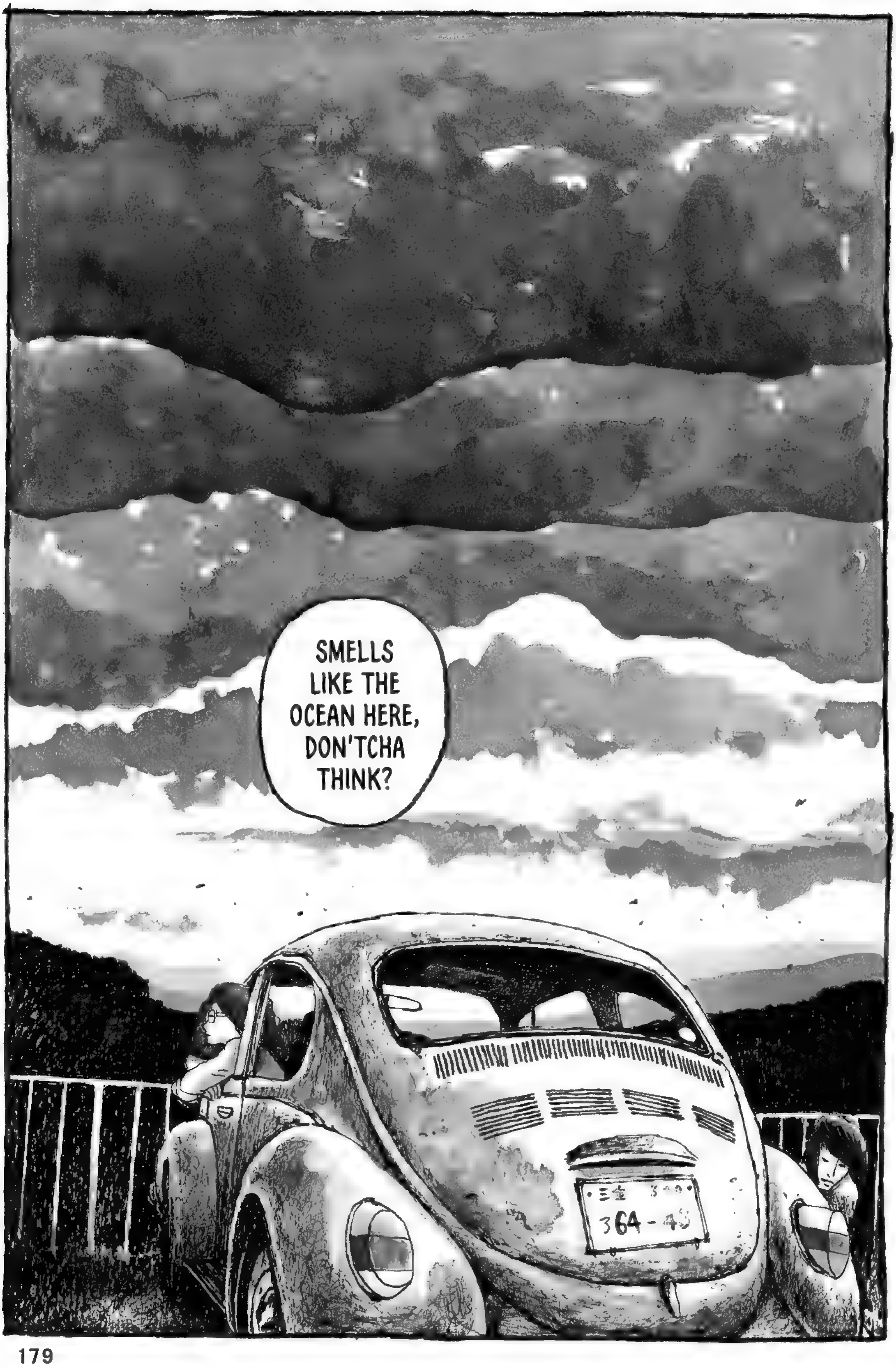
*"Hakodate Lady" (Hakodate No Hito), 1965 hit enka single from Saburō Kitajima*

?!
FWSHHH
HEY, MEGUMU.
SINGIN' OLDIES NOW, HUH?
VERY COOL.
THAT'S NOT IT, KENJI!
JUS' MY AUNTIE AND UNCLE CAME FROM HAKODATE THE OTHER DAY...
FWSH
YEAH ... I KNOW.
THOSE GALOSHES LOOK GOOD ON YA.

Y'KNOW, KENJI.
HUH?
I THINK...
...MY MOM'S AND DAD'S SPIRITS ARE STILL AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
THAT SO.
FWSHHH
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

# CHAPTER 30

"Where d'ya think birds sleep during a storm?"


SMELLS LIKE THE OCEAN HERE, DON'TCHA THINK?

PROB'LY THE TYPHOON ...
WE'RE PRETTY FAR FROM THE OCEAN, THOUGH.
STRONG WINDS CARRY THE SALT AIR INLAND, Y'KNOW.
W H O O O O O

TYPHOON 6 IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL. IT WILL HEAD NORTHWEST FROM THE SOUTH OF JAPAN.
WHSH
SORRY, I GUESS I DIDN'T GIVE YOU MUCH WARNING.
IT'S FINE. I DON'T MIND.
I WAS HAPPY THAT YOU CALLED.
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I RODE IN YOUR CAR.
THE STORM WILL MAKE LAND-FALL ON THE KII PENINSULA AT 3 PM.
AND NOW I FINALLY GET TO VISIT STAR KIDS HOME...
WHOOOO
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE AT THE CENTER OF THE STORM IS 945 MILLIBARS.

NEAR THE CENTER...
BOOP
ZPFT
HOW'S WORK?
YOU SAID YOU WERE GETTING TIRED OF GOING ALL OVER THE PLACE, REPORTING ...
YEAH.
I'VE GOTTEN USED TO IT...
THEY SAY I'VE GOTTEN GOOD AT WRITING ARTICLES.
IT'S ROUTINE NOW, SO...
SOME OF THE THRILL IS GONE.
BUT I LIKE MY JOB, Y'KNOW.
YEAH?
THAT'S GOOD.

HOW ABOUT YOU?
ME?
WELL...
WHOOOOOO
OH...
SORRY, IT WAS GETTIN' KINDA SMOKY IN HERE.
IT'S FINE.
NICE TO HAVE THE FRESH AIR...
FZT
I'M GOING BACK TO COLLEGE.
...
I'VE MADE THE DECISION.

I GUESS I'M GONNA TRY TO FIGURE OUT...
...WHAT I REALLY WANNA DO.
YEAH?
GONNA GET SERIOUS AND QUIT BEING SUCH A NOMAD.
YEAH, I KNOW, BUT WE GOT A *FLAT*...
ARF
ARF

GOT IT. I'LL MAKE SURE I'M BACK BY THEN.
PANT
PANT
PANT
OKAY.
WHAT TIME DOES MR. ADACHI HAVE TO HEAD OUT?
DOESN'T HEAR SO WELL THESE DAYS.
YEP.
THAT YOUR GRANDPA?
WHOOOO
ARF
ARF
ARF
ARF
WIND'S REALLY PICKING UP.
WOW.
ARF
ARF
KA-DUMP

IS HARUO'S "HARU" THE KANJI FOR "HEALING"?
NO.
IT'S "SPRING" LIKE "SPRING, SUMMER."
AND HE'S THE KID WITH THE WHITE HAIR, RIGHT?
YEP.
WHSHH
I WAS AT THE HOME ON SUMMER BREAK WHEN HE FIRST GOT BROUGHT IN.
HE WAS STILL A FIRST-GRADER...
星の子学園

HARUO THOUGHT HE WAS BEING TAKEN TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK OR SOMETHING.
HE WAS SO CONFUSED. WHAT A MESS...
A LOT OF THE KIDS GET TOLD STUFF LIKE THAT WHEN THEY COME.
THEY START FREAKING OUT, HANGING ON TO THEIR PARENTS...
...
HA HA HA
I GUESS THEY CAN FEEL SOMETHING BAD'S COMING.
THEY EVEN TRY AND FOLLOW THEIR PARENTS TO THE BATH-ROOM.
SQUEE
BUT THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE KID WAKES UP, THE PARENTS ARE GONE.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING.
"WHAT LOUSY TIMING."
"MAN, DID I PICK A BAD DAY TO SHOW UP."
IT *IS* HEAVY.
SOUNDS HEAVY...
SCREAMING.
IT WASN'T REALLY CRYING, IT WAS MORE LIKE...
WHOO
I BET HARUO CRIED A LOT.
OO
FUJIFILM
DRINK
sprite
...BUT HE STILL DIDN'T STOP BAWLING AND TRYING TO FIND HIS MOM.
HE CRIED SO MUCH HE THREW UP...
BAWLING HIS HEAD OFF, RUNNING AROUND, SEARCHING FOR HIS MOM...

AFTER THAT THE OLDER KIDS STARTED CHASING HIM AROUND, TEASING HIM...
BURNED THAT BASE-BALL CAP HE WAS ALWAYS WEARING...
STOLE ALL THE TOYS HE BROUGHT WITH HIM...
...
THOSE KIDS HAVE HAD A REALLY TOUGH LIFE.

GLUNK
WELCOME!
CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?
PUTT PUTT
HUNGRY, NANAKO? WANNA STOP OFF SOME-WHERE?
NOPE.
I'M GOOD!
I BROUGHT LOTS OF SNACKS.
BESIDES, WE'RE IN A RACE WITH THE TYPHOON, RIGHT?
BAROMETRIC PRESSURE AT THE STORM CENTER HOLD-ING STEADY AT 945 MILLIBARS.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE ACTUALLY ENJOYING THIS.
PEAK GUST SPEEDS OF 65 METERS.
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE STOPPING AND EATING!
THAT'LL BE 3,600 YEN.
YEAH.
Y'KNOW, SINCE I WAS LITTLE, I'VE ALWAYS GOTTEN EX-CITED DURING STORMS.
WINDS OF OVER 25 METERS PER SECOND HAVE BEEN DETECTED 110 KM FROM THE STORM'S CENTER.
THANK YOU, PLEASE COME AGAIN!
PUTT PUTT
WHOOO
PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER WEATHER UPDATES.

WHSHH
SO... WHAT HAP-PENED?
HMM?
TO HARUO...
OH, YEAH.
WELL, THAT WAS WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE, Y'KNOW...
SO I DIDN'T GET BACK TO THE HOME FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS.
...
PUTT PUTT

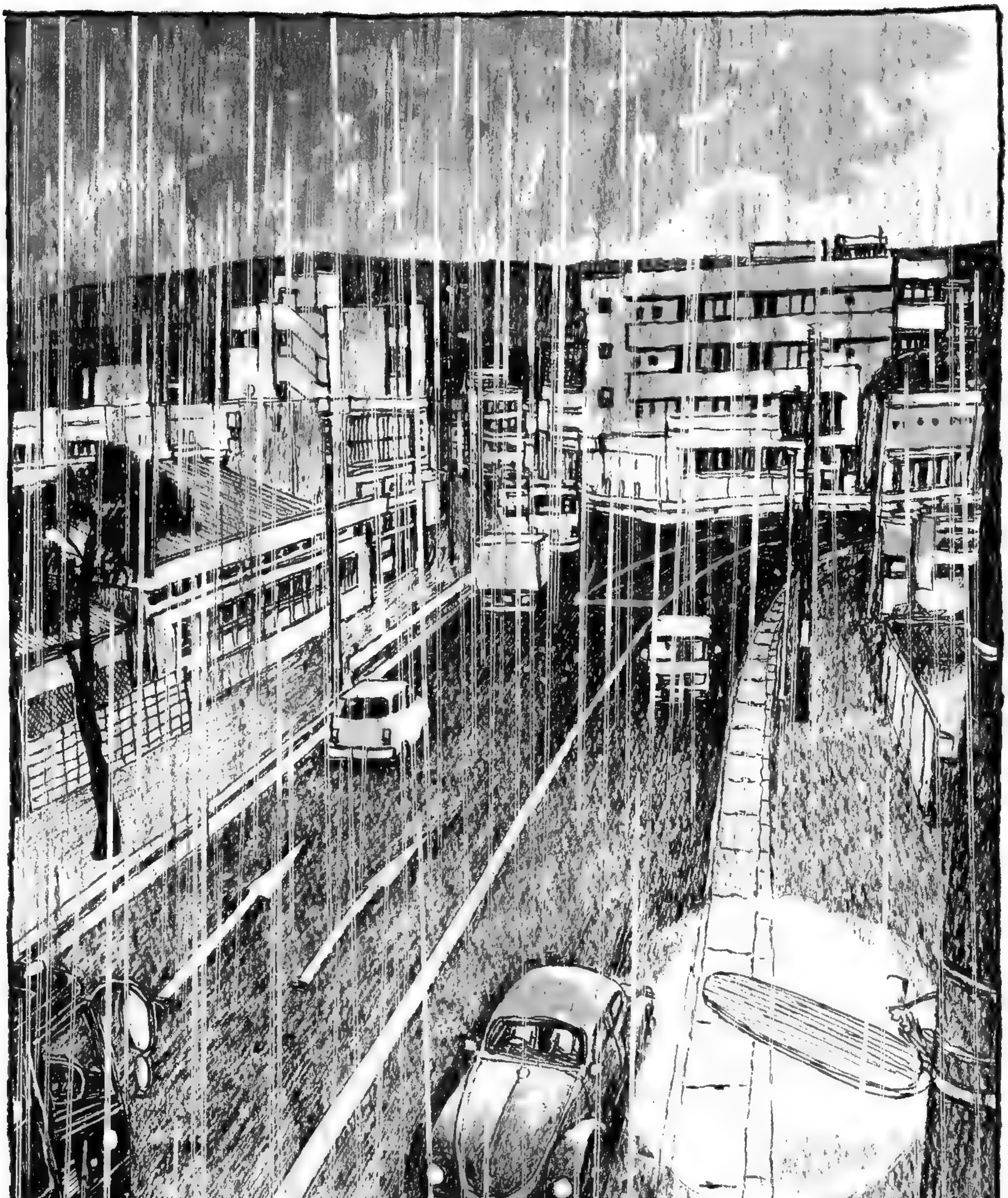
WHOA ...
*Letters on wall: Dummy
THIS IS OUT OF CONTROL.
'S ALL THAT NEW BOY'S HANDIWORK ...
HE'S LIKE *TANISHI* REINCARNATED. HEH HEH.

A REALLY BAD KID BACK WHEN STAR KIDS HOME FIRST OPENED...
TANI-SHI?
WHOOOOO
ANYWAY, WHEN HARUO CAME OUT OF DETENTION HE WAS LIKE A DIFFERENT KID.

THAT'S EVEN WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.
OH MY...
THREW EVERYONE'S SHOES IN THE FISH-POND...
HE CHOPPED SOME GIRL'S HAIR OFF, LIT THE DOGHOUSE ON FIRE...
TOTALLY OUT OF CONTROL.
I'M KIND OF A *FAN* OF HIS...
HA HA... NAW, DON'T WORRY, HE'S BASICALLY A GOOD KID.
I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE THIS VISIT ISN'T SUCH A GREAT IDEA...
WELL, SORT OF.
SO IS HE BEHAVING BETTER NOW?
UH-OH...
IT'S RAINING.

BESIDES, I PROMISED HIM...
THIS TIME I'D BRING MY *GIRLFRIEND*.

HE ASKED ME, "IS SHE PRETTY?"
AND I TOLD HIM, "THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD."
STOP IT...
HA HA HA.
SORRY, FORGET ABOUT IT.
ALMOST THERE.



BA-DUMP
OH...
ARF
ARF
ARF
HEY, IT'S MAKIO!
HI.
HOW IS EVERY-ONE?
ARF

HI, I'M NANA-KO.
SORRY I'M LATE.
NO PROB-LEM.
THANKS, MAKIO! I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY AND ALL.
ARF
ARF
FWSHHH
I WANNA SEE MAKIO'S GIRL-FRIEND TOO!
WHAT?!
SHE'S PRETTY.
ARF
ARF
HEY, IS THAT MAKIO'S *GIRL-FRIEND*?!
WELL, HELLO THERE!! I'M ADACHI!
Gaaa
HI, EVERYONE.
HELLO!
I'M JUST GOIN' OVER TO THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO GET SOME BLANKETS AND STUFF!
GOT IT. LEAVE THE REST HERE TO ME.
ARF
ARF

HEY!
YOU'RE NANAKO, AIN'TCHA?
NANAKO, I BROUGHT YOU A *PRESENT*!

*A low-class Tokyo delicacy

YOU CAN EAT 'EM IF YOU GIVE 'EM A DAY TO GET ALL THE MUD OUT OF 'EM!
LET'S EAT 'EM TOGETHER!
SURE.
FORGET ABOUT THE FISH!
AIN'T YA GONNA DO YOUR CHORES, HARUO?!
EW, GROSS...
GEEZ, OKAY ALREADY!
I GOT IT, YOU JERK!
BARF.
SLIDE
...
IT'S NOT FAIR, HARUO'S HOGGING HER...
COME UP TO *OUR* ROOM, MISS NANAKO!
WHYDJA GIVE HER SUCH A *NASTY* PRESENT ANYWAY?
HEY, WHAT'S *NASTY* ABOUT IT?
MISS NANAKO ...

BESIDES, I WANTED TO INTRODUCE SOMEONE TO YOU.
SORRY... TOUGH GETTIN' HERE?
NAW, IT WAS OKAY.
ANYWAY, BRING THE DOG AND THE POTTED PLANTS INSIDE, RIGHT? AND, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU MIGHT AS WELL CHECK THE GUTTERS.
AND THEN THERE'S ...
I GOT IT, DON'T WORRY...
YES, WHAT A LOVELY YOUNG LADY.
YEAH.
HA HA HA...
QUIT IT, WILLYA!
FWSHHHHHH

COME INSIDE, SHOSUKE. IT'S NOT SAFE...
GEEZ. HOW COME KURIMARU WON'T MOVE?
WHEEE
CHK CHK CHK
SEI, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE BIG ONES.
IT'S OKAY.
TARO, COULD YOU BRING IN SHOSUKE AND KURI-MARU?
UNH.

WHOOOO
BLOW, WIND, BLOW!
HARUO, QUIT MESSIN' AROUND AND HELP OUT!
CRASH, THUNDER AND LIGHT-ING!
GOOF-BALL.
TSK...
BWA HA HA HA HA HA!!
YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT ME!
TYPHOON 6 IS MAINTAINING EXTREMELY POWERFUL FORCE.

I COULD NEVER EAT THOSE.
EW...
ME EITHER.
HEY, COULD YOU GUYS WATCH CHIAKI? I GOTTA GO CLOSE THE STORM SHUTTERS.
Gah
OKAAAY.
GONK
THE STORM IS CURRENTLY APPROACHING THE KANSAI REGION.
KONK

HEY, MISS MIT-SUKO...
HE GETS SO WORRIED ABOUT HIS CAT, CHIBI ...
...THAT HE EVEN *SLEEPS* WITH HER!
UH-HUH!
HA HA HA
YEAH.
REALLY? I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS MAKIO'S STYLE.
Hee Hee Hee
WATCH OUT FOR RIVERS FLOODING IN MUDSLIDE-PRONE AREAS.
WELL THEN, TAKE THEM ON OVER TO THE HOUSE-MASTER'S AREA.
I FOUND SOME MORE CANDLES.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, YOU JUST GET INSIDE!
BE PREPARED FOR VIOLENT WINDS AND HIGH WAVES.
WHOOOO
KOJI, DON'T LEAN OUT!
THIS SHUTTER'S STUCK!
MAKIO!

I AM THE CHOSEN HERO!!
VERY STORMY SEAS AND WAVES IN EXCESS OF 8 METERS ARE EXPECTED.
星の子学園
GEEZ.
IT'S ME YOU WANT!!
TYPHOON, COME IF YOU DARE!!
WATCH FOR FLOODING IN LOW-LYING AREAS.
UNH
YOU BETTER COME IN, HARUO.
FORGET ABOUT 'IM.

HARUO, YOU DUMMY! COME INSIDE, QUICK!
PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR FURTHER WEATHER UPDATES.
WHOOOOOO
ARF
OH NO, THERE'S A LEAK IN THE SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY!
ARF
YOU'LL NEVER DEFEAT ME!!
MWA HA HA HA...
ARF

Sunny

5

END

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# SUNNY
Volume 5
VIZ Signature Edition

Story and art by **Taiyo MATSUMOTO**

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## TAIYO MATSUMOTO

is best known to English-reading audiences as the creator of ***Tekkonkinkreet***, which in 2006 was made into an animated feature film of the same name, directed by Michael Arias. In 2007 Matsumoto was awarded a **Japan Media Arts Festival Excellence Award**, and in 2008 he won an **Eisner Award** for the English publication of ***Tekkonkinkreet***.

Also available in **ENGLISH** by **TAIYO MATSUMOTO**

● *Blue Spring* ● *Tekkonkinkreet* ● *GoGo Monster*